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Despite her family's protests, and after waiting eighteen long years, Aoi Sakuraba decides that she is going to marry Kaoru Hanahishi! And once he realizes that she's not working for his family—and trying to get him to go back to them—he decides that it's a good idea, too. But young love is never easy, and the two have to overcome a few potholes on the way to finally being together.

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VOLUME 11

STORY & ART
BY
KOU FUMIZUKI

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Created by Kou Fumizuki

Translation - Alethea Nibley & Athena Nibley
English Adaptation - Jamie S. Rich
Copy Editor - Hope Donovan
Retouch and Lettering - Creative Circle
Production Artist - James Dashiell
Cover Design - Gary Shum

Editor - Rob Valois
Digital Imaging Manager - Chris Buford
Production Managers - Jennifer Miller and Mutsumi Miyazaki
Managing Editor - Lindsey Johnston
VP of Production - Ron Klamert
Publisher and E.I.C. - Mike Kiley
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TOKYOPOP Inc
5900 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 2000
Los Angeles, CA 90036

E-mail: info@TOKYOPOP.com
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Summary of the story so far...

Mayu Miyuki

The daughter of the head of Miyuki Fabrics, she entered Meiritsu University at the age of sixteen, through a special consideration for students who have lived abroad. She met Kaoru when she was little, and even now she is in love with him.

Tina Foster

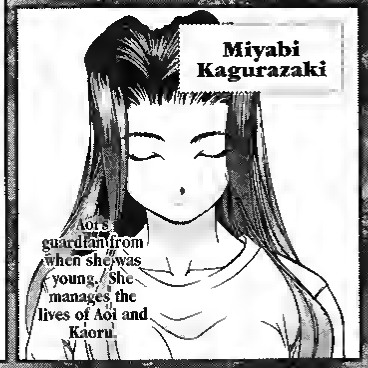
A third-year student at Meiritsu University. She, like Kaoru, is in the photography club. An American who was raised in Hakata.

Chika Minazuki

Taeko's cousin, a first-year in high school. An energetic girl who always has a tan. She's staying in the boarding house next to the Sakuraba Manor.

Takeo Minazuki

A second-year student in the photography club. She's clumsy and awkward, but she tries her hardest at everything she does.



Miyabi Kagurazaki

Aoi's guardian from when she was young. She manages the lives of Aoi and Kaoru.

Kaoru Hanabishi was torn away from his mother when he was very young and raised as the heir of the Hanabishi Zaibatsu however he found he was unable to endure the harsh responsibilities placed on him, and he ran away from home to live by himself. He continued life in this fashion right up until the arrival of Aoi Sakuraba, who had been his betrothed and who loved him for eighteen years Kaoru was blown away by her devotion, but her request for him to go back to the Hanabishi was the one thing he could not do. Aoi recognized the pain this caused Kaoru so she decided to leave her own family, the Sakuraba, instead. Rather than lose her daughter, Aoi's mother conceded to allow the two of them to live together

The couple moved to a Western-style house that had previously been one of the Sakuraba's summer homes, and they now share the estate with Aoi's guardian, Miyabi Kagurazaki. There is a catch, though—while Aoi and Miyabi live in the main house, Kaoru has to live in the boarding house adjacent to it.

Then Tina Foster and Taeko Minazuki, members of Kaoru's photography club, moved in to the boarding house But Aoi, to avoid any scandal involving the Sakuraba family, must behave not as Kaoru's betrothed, but as the landlady of the boarding house

After a while, Mayu Miyuki, who has returned to Japan from England, and Taeko's cousin Chika Minazuki, gather around Kaoru, but even so, Kaoru's and Aoi's feelings for each other grew deeper and deeper

Kaoru Hanabishi

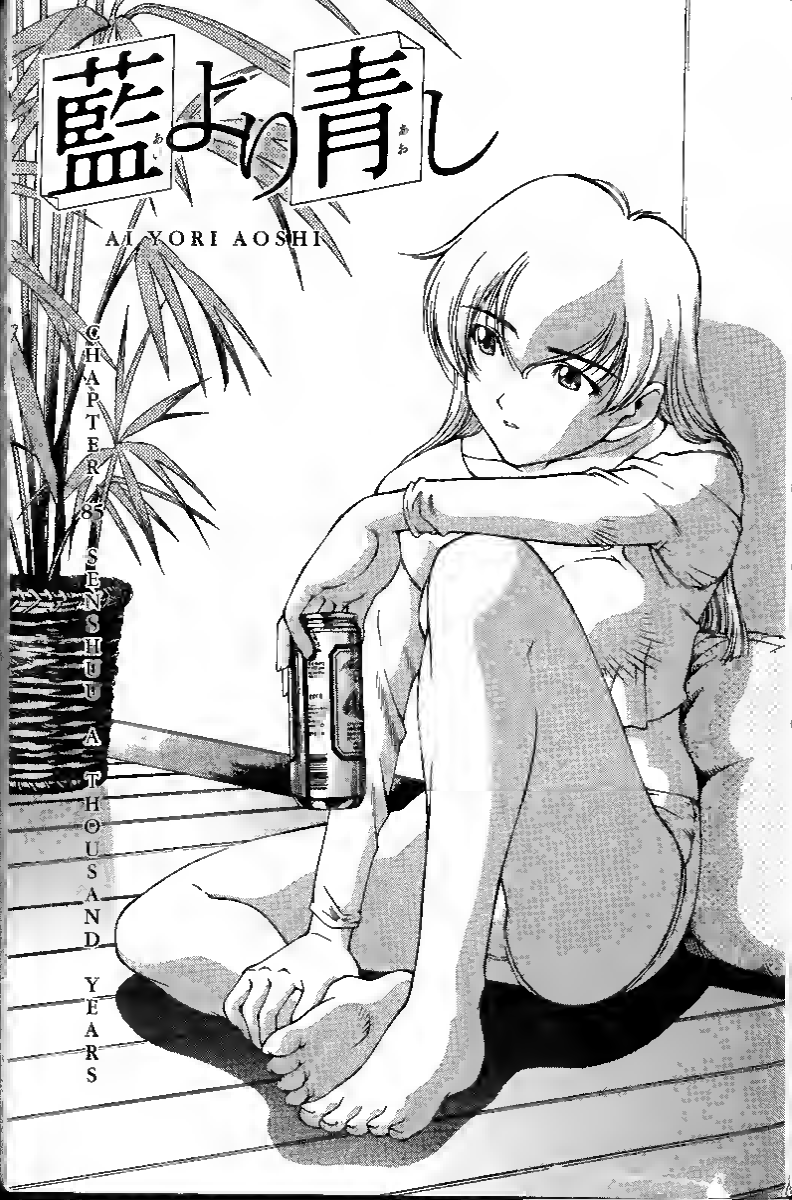
A fourth-year student at Meiritsu University. He was going to be the next head of the Hanabishi Zaibatsu, but now he's living in the boarding house next to one of the Sakuraba summer homes.

Aoi Sakuraba

Kaoru Hanabishi's betrothed. She is also the heir to the prestigious Sakuraba dry goods company (now Sakura Department Stores).

Ferret

It was being raised by Tina, but now, for some reason, it has gotten attached to Miyabi



Ai Yori Aoshi

藍より青し 11

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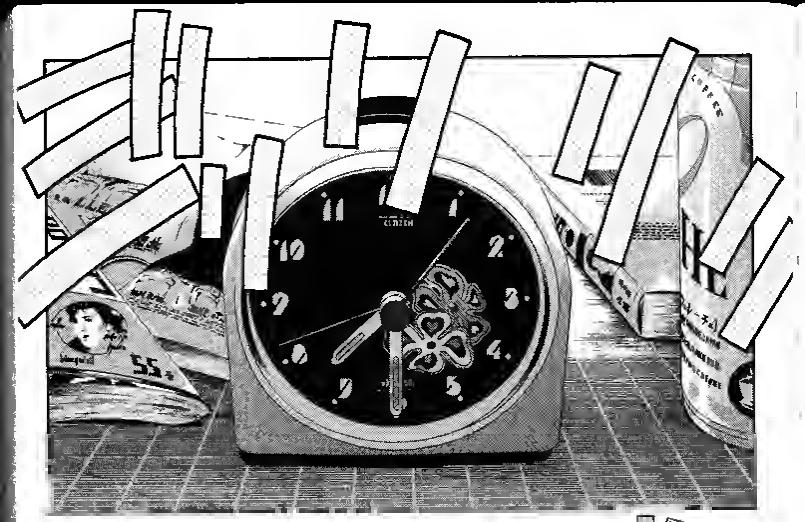
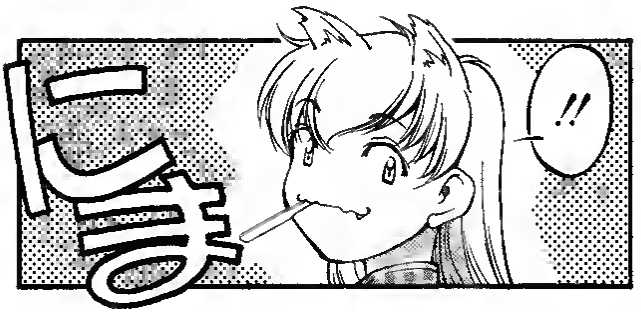
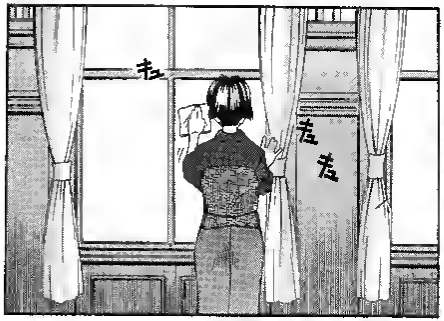




GOOD MOR--
KAORU...
--NIIIING!!
GEH!
GAH HA HA! YOU AWAKE?!
BRRRR.. THE HOT WATER'S ALL GONE
!!
I WONDER IF KAORU'S UP YET?
HE'S OUT LIKE A LIGHT.



Sigh...

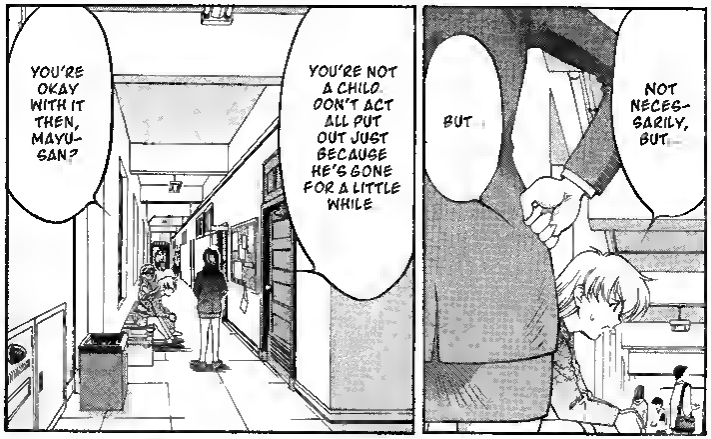
YIKES! CHIKA-RIN?!
W-WHY ARE Y-YOU SO MEAN, TINA-ONEECHAN?

I CAME TO WAKE UP ONII-CHAN, BUT I FELL BACK TO SLEEP MYSELF.
.....

HUH? WELL..
Hey!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN KAORU'S BED, CHIKA-RIN?!

LANDLADY-SAN!!
K-KAORU-SAMA IS THAT IS...
..HE'S GONE OUT
LANDLADY-SAN, HAVE YOU SEEN KAORU?!
G-GOOD MORNING, TINA-SAN
WHERE DID HE GO?!
.....

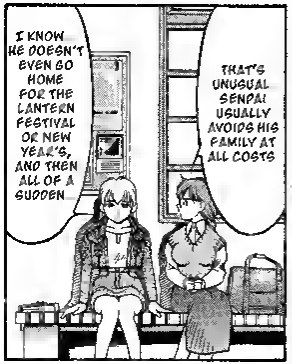
KAORU NEVER SAID ANYTHING ABOUT THAT...
TO SEE HIS FAMILY?!
TO SEE...
..HIS FAMILY.
Y-YES
LANDLADY-SAN, DID HE TELL YOU THAT?
STRANGE
HMM


YOU'RE OKAY WITH IT THEN, MAYU-SAN?
YOU'RE NOT A CHILD. DON'T ACT ALL PUT OUT JUST BECAUSE HE'S GONE FOR A LITTLE WHILE
BUT
NOT NECES-SARILY, BUT...

OF COURSE...

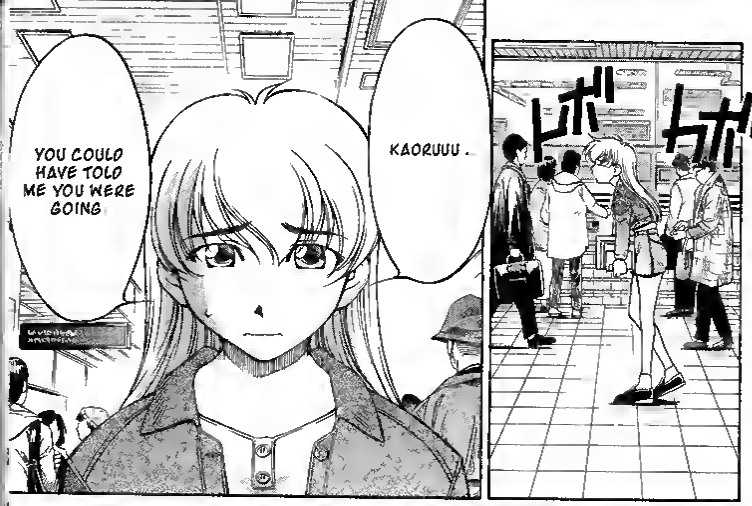
OF COURSE I'M LONELY AND DYING INSIDE!!

REALLY? SENPAI IS VISITING HIS RELATIVES?


I KNOW HE DOESN'T EVEN GO HOME FOR THE LANTERN FESTIVAL OR NEW YEAR'S, AND THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN...
THAT'S UNUSUAL SENPAI USUALLY AVOIDS HIS FAMILY AT ALL COSTS

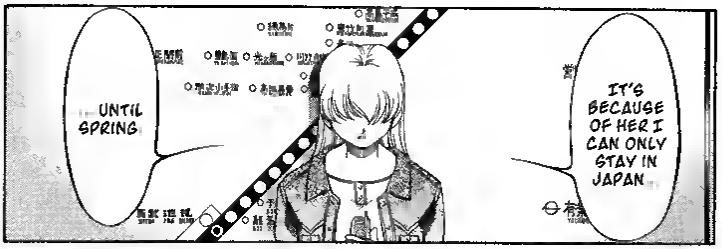
IS IT SO OUTRAGEOUS THAT HANABISHI-SAMA WANTS TO RECONNECT WITH HIS ROOTS?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

My heart is always aflutter!
IF IT WERE POSSIBLE, I WOULDN'T BE AWAY FROM HIM FOR A MINUTE! NOT A SECOND!
IT'S WHY MY HEART BEATS SO FAST EVERY TIME I SEE HIM

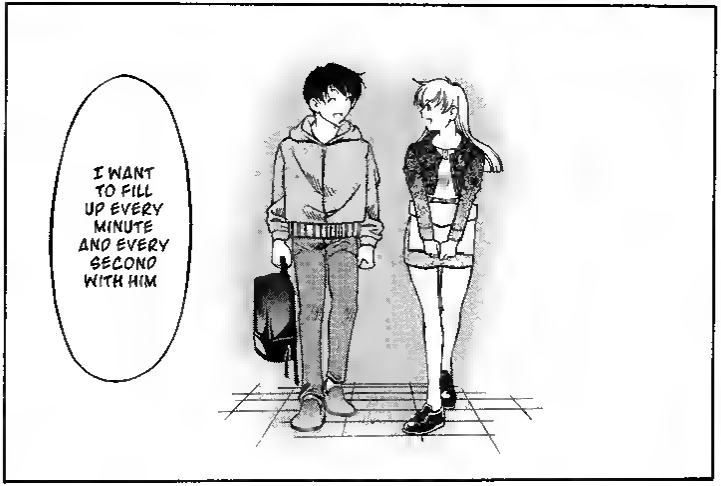

YOU COULD HAVE TOLD ME YOU WERE GOING
KAORUUU..

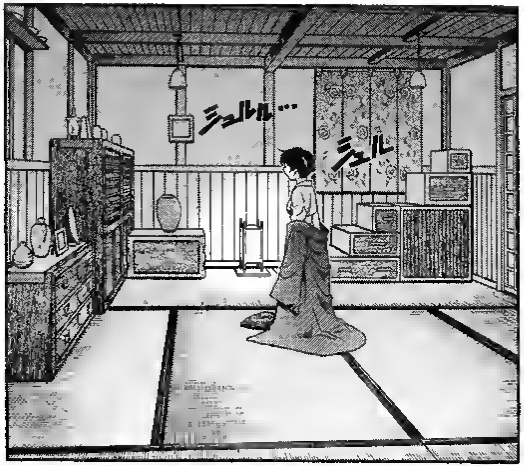
IS IT KAORU?!!
AWW, NUTS. IT'S JUST MY STUPID MOM.
AH.
Hi sweetheart
Guess who ;)
How's everything? Is it chilly outside in Tokyo? How's your classes? Are you eating enough?
Naa, I guess I'm asking too much at a time. Any way, I hope you're in good

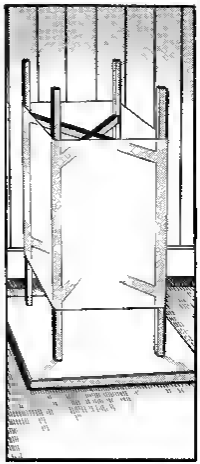
KAORUUU, I'M LONELY...
...I MISS YOU.


UNTIL SPRING
IT'S BECAUSE OF HER I CAN ONLY STAY IN JAPAN

MY TIME WITH KAORU IS RUNNING OUT FAST

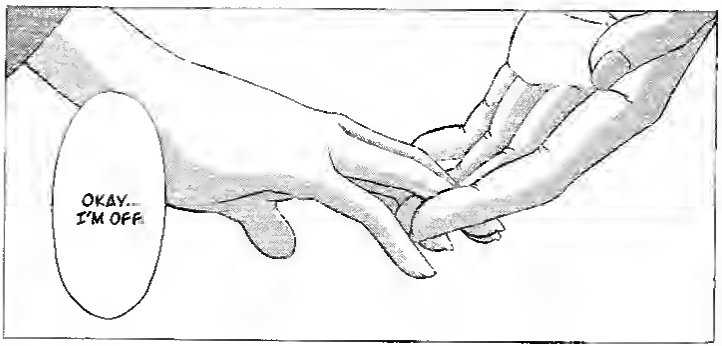

I WANT TO FILL UP EVERY MINUTE AND EVERY SECOND WITH HIM


ミュルル…
ミュル



...AOI-CHAN!
OF COURSE, I LIKE YOU...

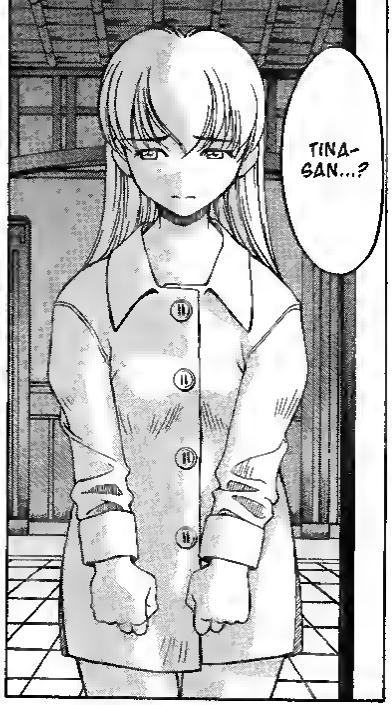
...HAD TO COME TO THE HANABISHI.
THAT'S WHY I


OKAY... I'M OFF.

...KAORU-SAMA

Y-YES?
KNOCK KNOCK

IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?


TINA-SAN...?

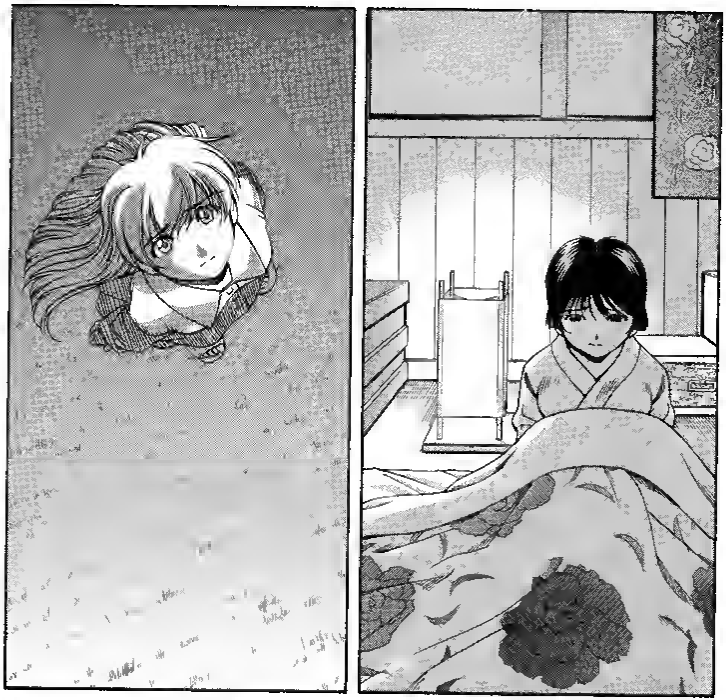
KAORU
EH?

WHEN WILL KAORU BE BACK?

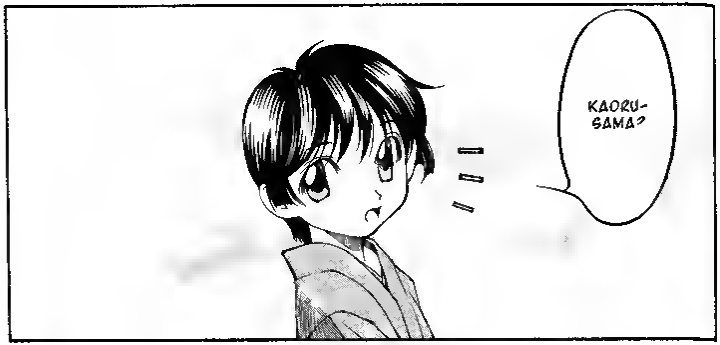
I-I... YOU SEE...
I DON'T REALLY--
WHY DID HE GO HOME?
UM, IS THERE SOMETHING YOU NEED KAORU-SAMA FOR?
IT'S NOT THAT I REALLY NEED HIM...

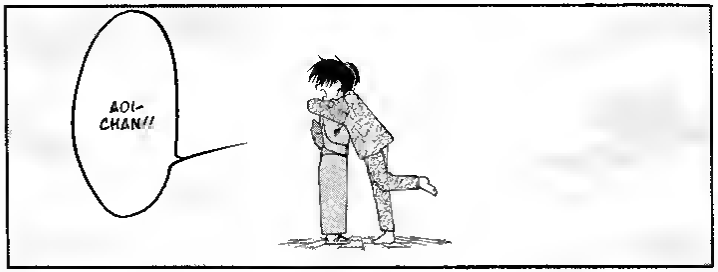
IT'S JUST YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE KAORU TALKS TO, SO ONLY YOU WOULD KNOW WHY HE LEFT.
GOOD NIGHT, LANDLADY-SAN.
HUH?!

CHAPTER 86 Ori Dregs

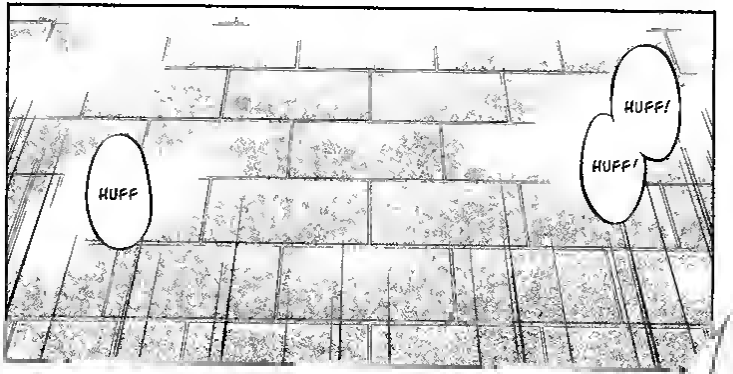


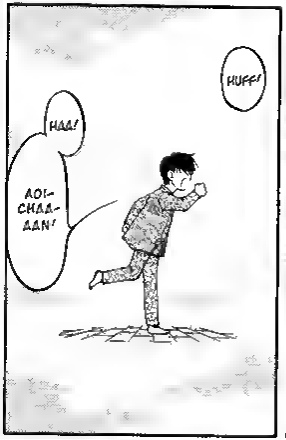
End of Chapter 85: Senshuu—A Thousand Years

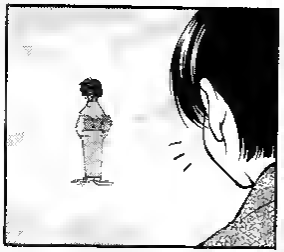

KAORU-SAMA?


AOI-CHAN!!

I'M SORRY, KAORU-SAMA...
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU ALL OVER
WHERE WERE YOU?
BUT I'M HERE NOW...
BE-CAUSE...


HUFF
HUFF!
HUFF!

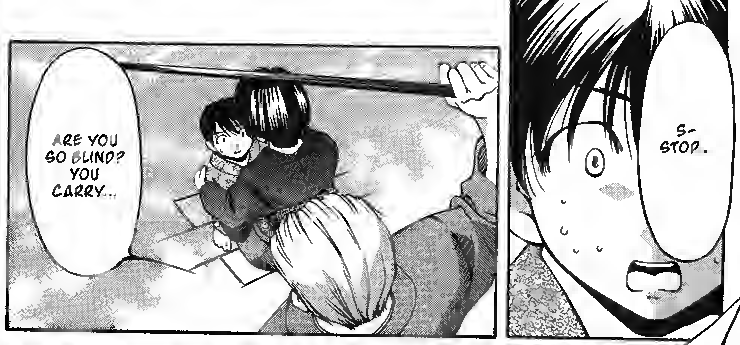

HUFF!
HAA!
AOI-CHAA-AAN!

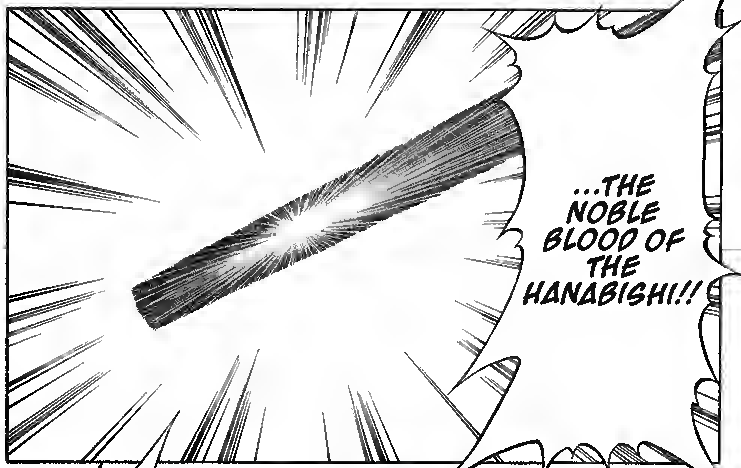


AOI-CHAAAN!!

...BECAUSE AOI AND KAORU-SAMA...
...WILL ALWAYS BE ABLE TO FIND ONE ANOTHER AGAIN
AOI... AOI-CHAN...
DON'T FRET, KAORU-SAMA IT'S ALL RIGHT
AOI-CHAN...
KAORU HANABISHI!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE?!!
ARE YOU TOO STUPID TO UNDERSTAND ME OR DO YOU DEFY ME ON PURPOSE ?!

ゴトン
ゴトン
ゴトン
ゴトン
ゴトン


ARE YOU SO BLIND? YOU CARRY...
S-STOP.


...THE NOBLE BLOOD OF THE HANABISHI!!!

STOP IT!!

...KAORU-SAMA
IT'S ALL RIGHT...

IT'S ALL RIGHT...

I'VE LEARNED SO MUCH SINCE THEN.
MY BIGGEST FEAR WAS THAT IF I STAYED AMONGST THE HANABISHI, I WOULD BECOME LIKE THEM.
ハァ...

...A-A DREAM?

YOU CARRY THE NOBLE BLOOD OF THE HANABISHI!

I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD BE A PART OF THE HANABISHI AGAIN
HANA-BISHI... FEH

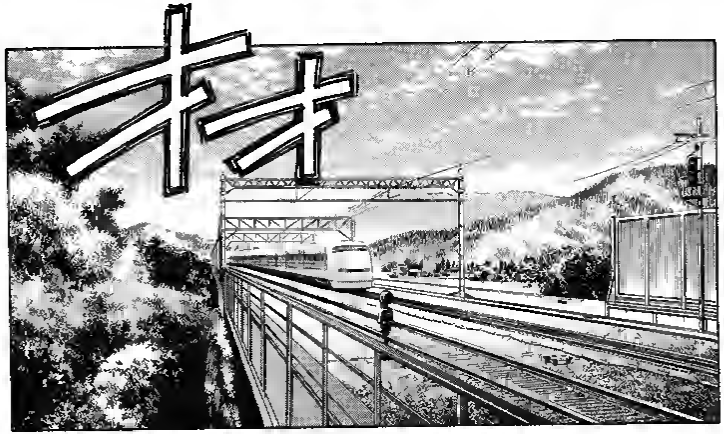
JUST BEING WITH AOI-CHAN HAS BROUGHT ME PEACE.

AOI WANTS TO BE WITH KAORU-SAMA!
FOR EIGHTEEN YEARS. ALL THIS TIME I'VE WAITED FOR THIS MOMENT!!
SINCE SHE FOUND ME...

...SHE HAS ALWAYS, ALWAYS...
...WITH TIME, I'LL HEAL THEM.

AOI WISHES SHE COULD TAKE YOUR PLACE...
...GIVEN ME EVERY-THING.

AND WHAT DO I GIVE HER? ONLY TEARS, IT SEEMS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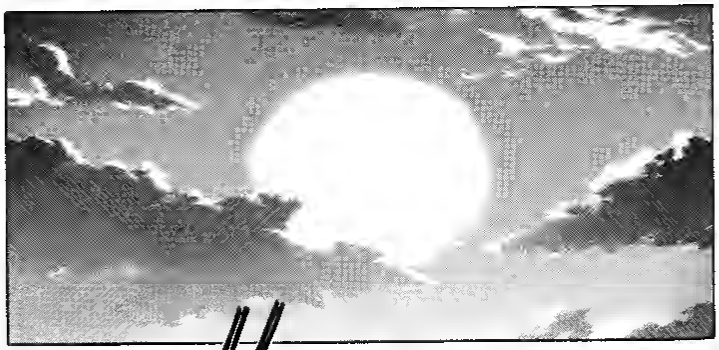

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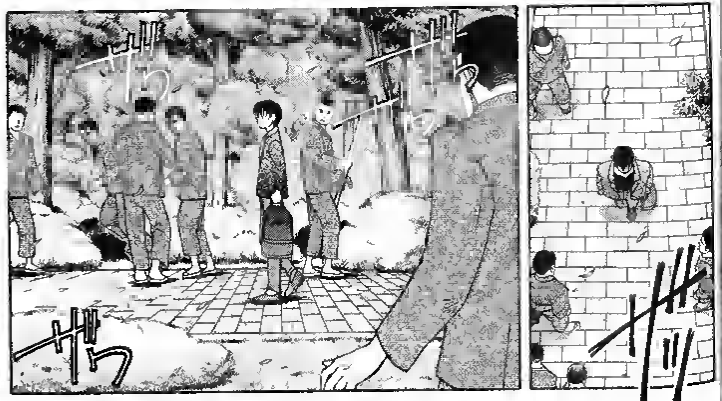
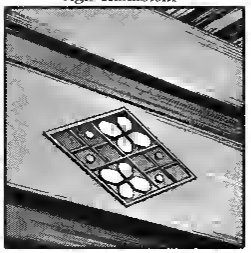
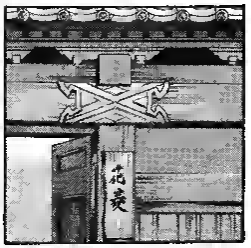
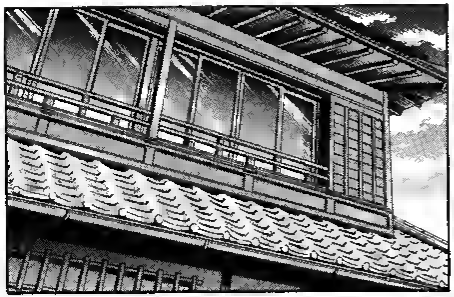
FROM NOW ON, I'LL ONLY MAKE HER SMILE.
AOI-CHAN WILL ALWAYS BE HAPPY.



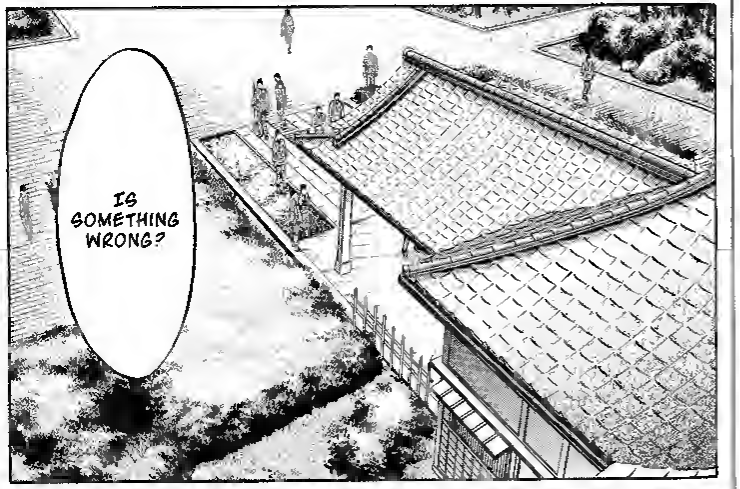
Sign Hanabishi





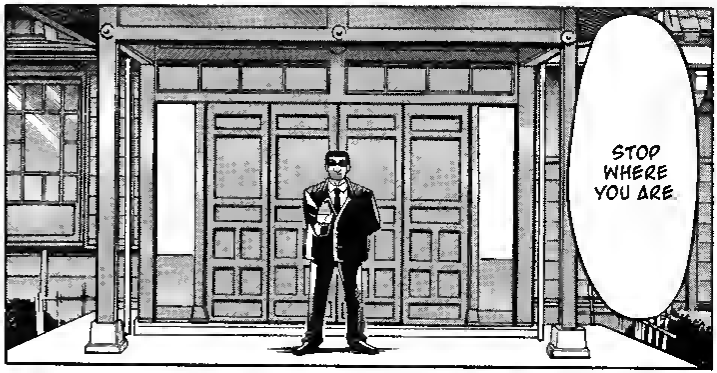


NO... BUT, YOU SEE...


IS SOMETHING WRONG?

JUST COME OUT AND SAY IT.

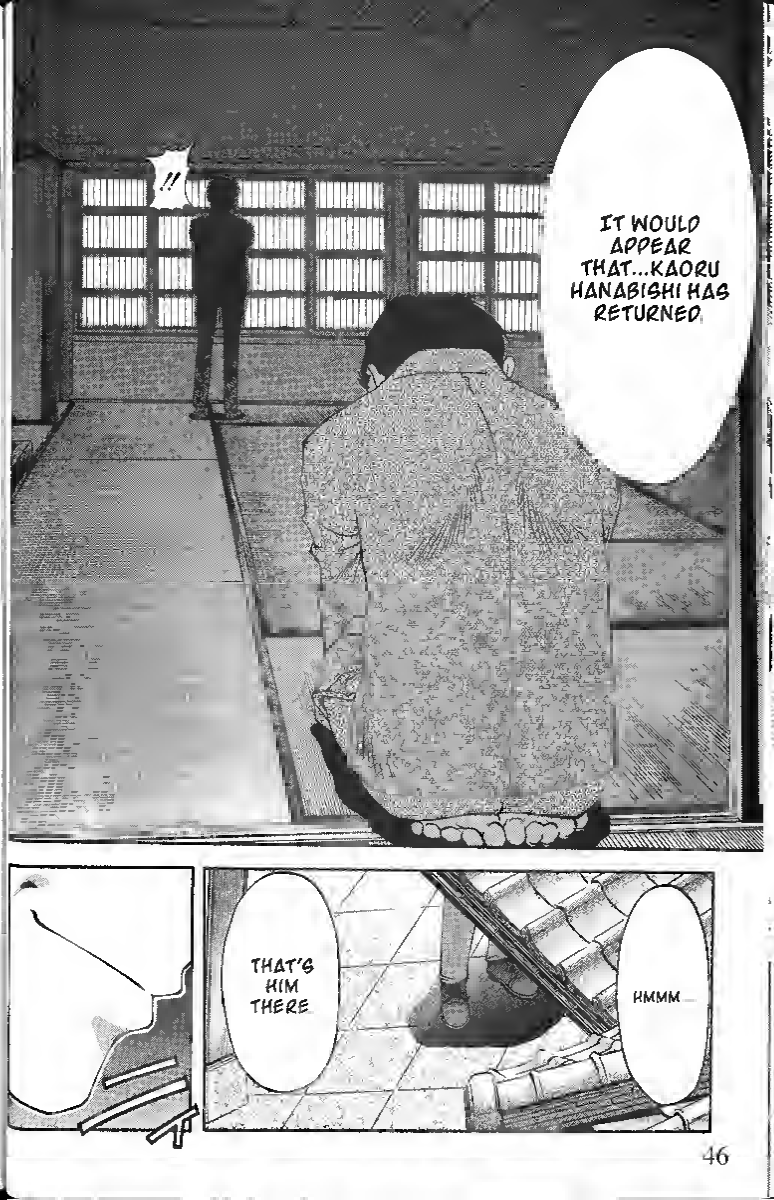
TH-THAT IS...


STOP WHERE YOU ARE.

TELL...
.....

...MY GRAND-FATHER..
...THAT KAORU HANABISHI IS HERE.

...REPEAT MYSELF.
DON'T MAKE ME...
SHOW HIM IN.
A-ARE YOU SURE?!
Y-Y-YES, SIR!!
...COME WITH ME.
PLEASE...


!!
IT WOULD APPEAR THAT...KAORU HANABISHI HAS RETURNED.
THAT'S HIM THERE
HMMM...

藍より青し

AI YORI AOSHI

CHAPTER 87 KOTSUNIKU BLOODLINES

I HAVE TO FACE UP TO MY FAMILY

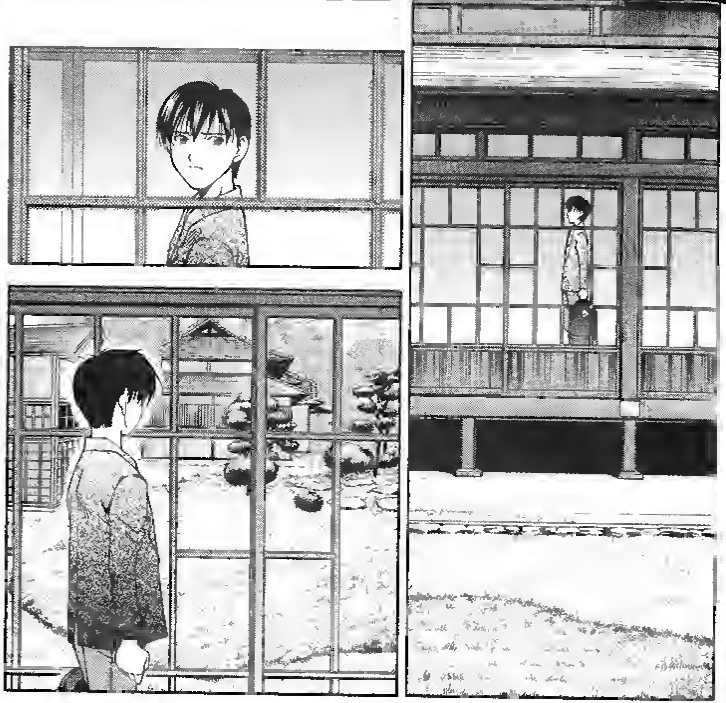
FOR MYSELF AND FOR AOI-CHAN

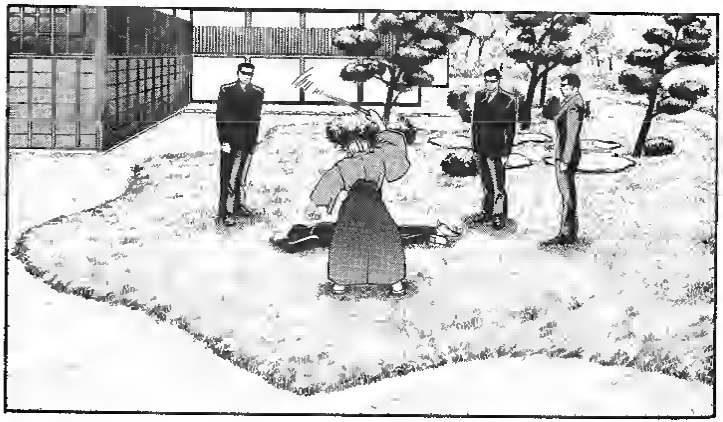
I HAVE TO SEE MY GRAND-FATHER AND MAKE SURE

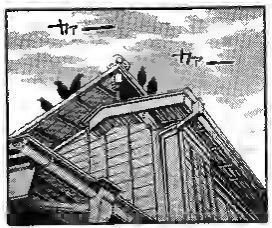
MY FEELINGS ARE STRONG ENOUGH

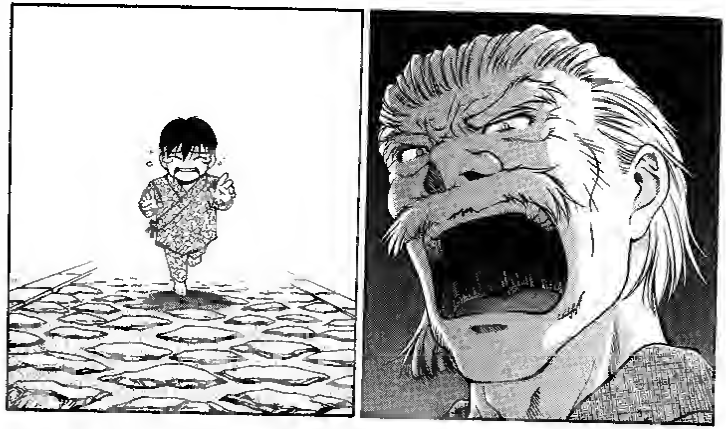
I'LL KNOW WHETHER I CAN RETURN TO THE HANABISHI

...OR IF I...

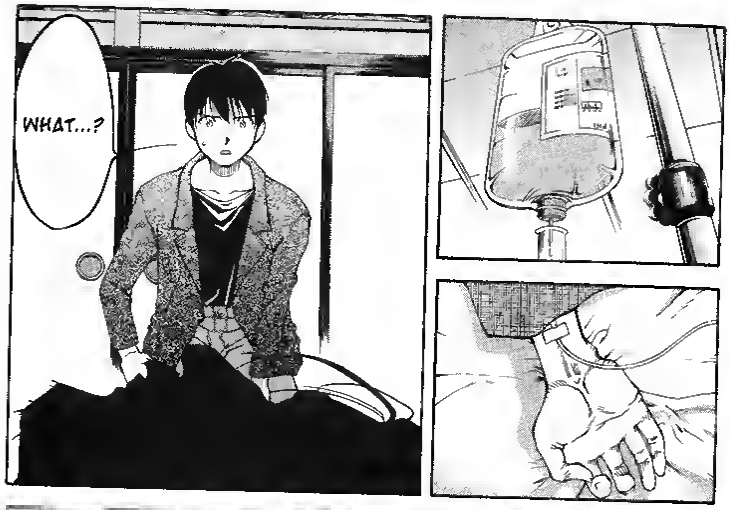








IN HERE, PLEASE.


WHAT...?

.....

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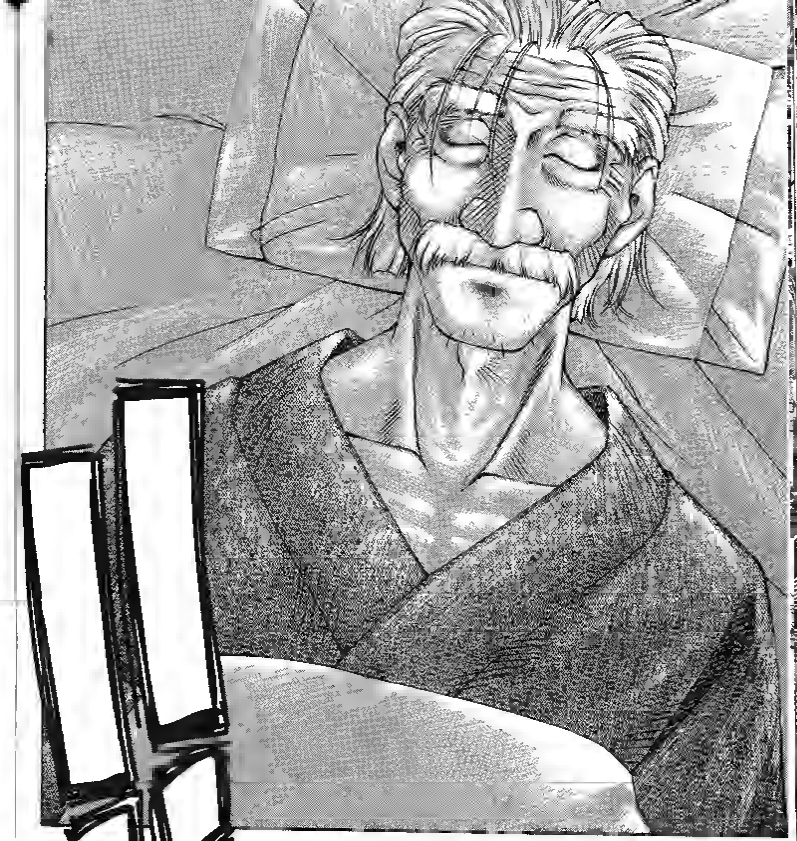


HELP ME UP...
Y-YES, SIR.
UM...

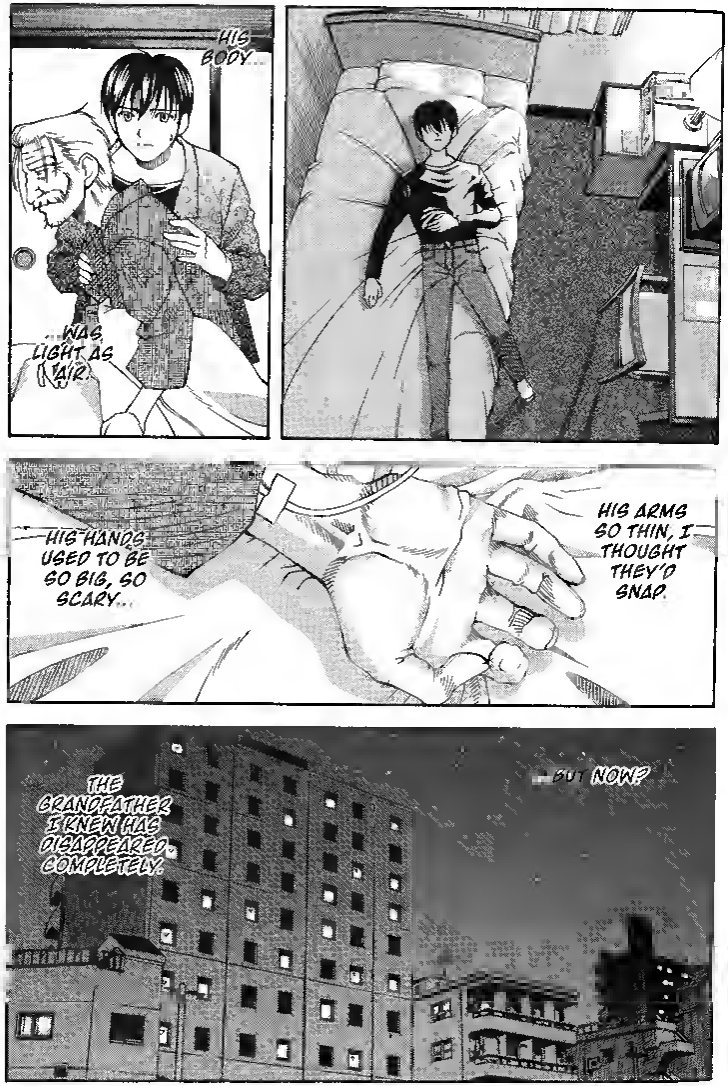
WHO ARE YOU?

YOUR DINNER IS GETTING COLD.
NNGH... OH.
HE SEEMS FAMILIAR.
WHO WAS THAT...?
THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR TROUBLE.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WOULD DO IF I DIDN'T HAVE YOU FOR A GRANDSON

I'M COMING IN.
HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

.....
YOU SHOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT SUCH THINGS. PLEASE EAT.
NN...
THE ONE WHO DID THIS TO MY GRAND-FATHER...
I'LL NEVER FORGIVE HIM... NEVER.
...WILL BE MY ENEMY UNTIL MY DYING DAY.

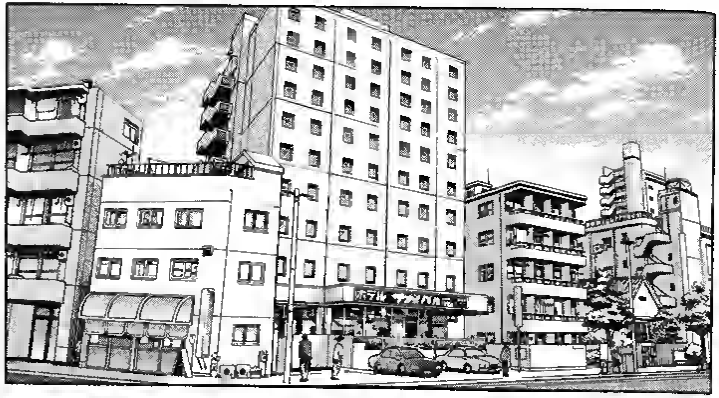
KAORU.

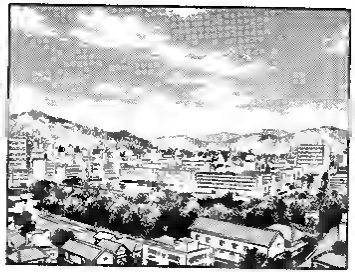

HIS BODY...
...WAS LIGHT AS AIR.
HIS HANDS USED TO BE SO BIG, SO SCARY...
HIS ARMS SO THIN, I THOUGHT THEY'D SNAP.
THE GRANDFATHER I KNEW HAS DISAPPEARED... COMPLETELY.
...BUT NOW?

KAORU HANABISHI...
...MY OLDER BROTHER!

WHY THE HELL HAVE I BEEN SO SCARED...

...AND WAITED SO LONG TO END THIS?!





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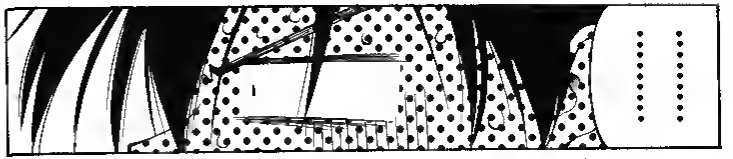
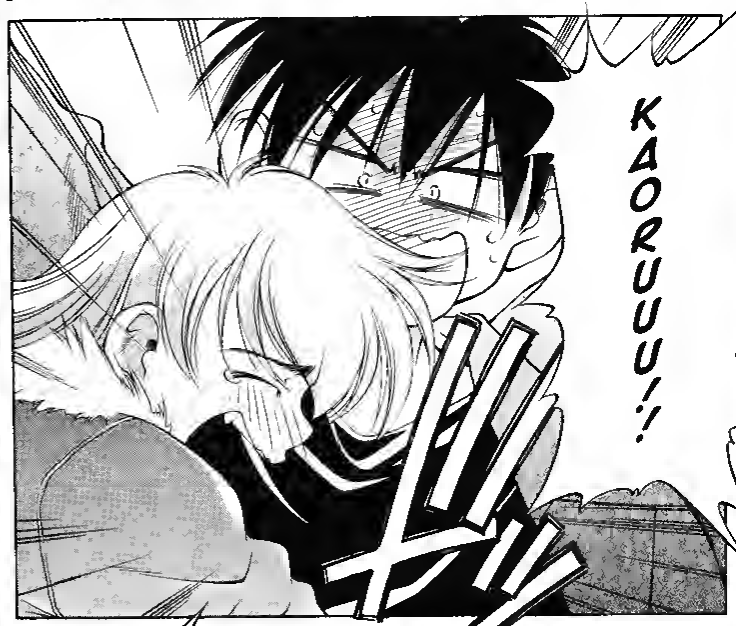
...THAT IS THE SOURCE OF MY JOY.
THAT I CAN BE WITH AOI-CHAN...
THAT I WAS ABLE TO MEET AOI-CHAN..
I'M GOING HOME...
...TO AOI-CHAN!
KAO-RUUU...?

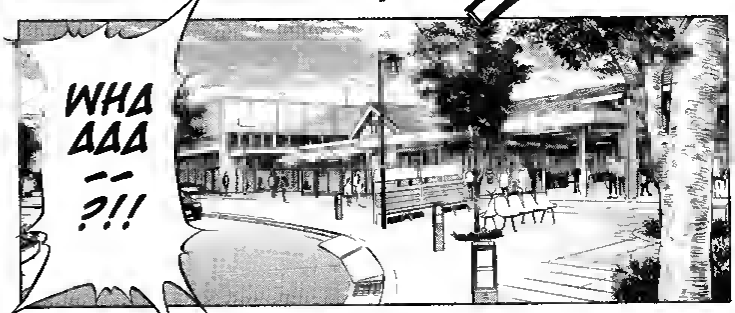
I'LL THROW IT ALL AWAY.
MY HANABISHI CONNECTION, THE PART OF ME STUCK IN THE PAST...

IT'S TIME TO TOSS IT ASIDE.
エスカレーター

...BEING BY AOI-CHAN'S SIDE WILL BE THE ONLY THING I NEED.
FROM NOW ON...

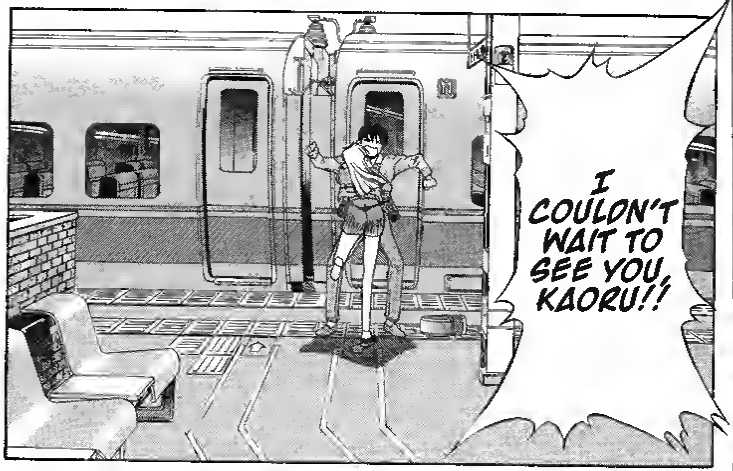


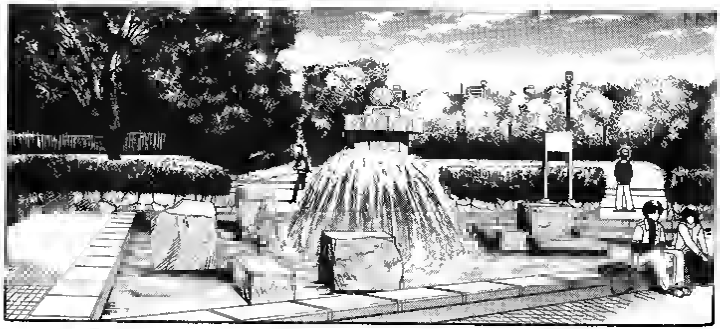




End of Chapter 87: Kotsuniku—Bloodlines

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
T-TINA?!


I COULDN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU, KAORU!!

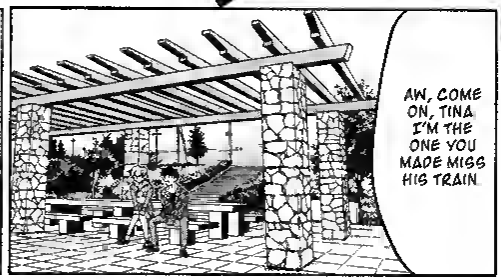


I MISSED YOU SO MUCH--!!

KAORUUU!!

Eheh.
heh. h
Eheh.

SORRY


AW, COME ON, TINA I'M THE ONE YOU MADE MISS HIS TRAIN

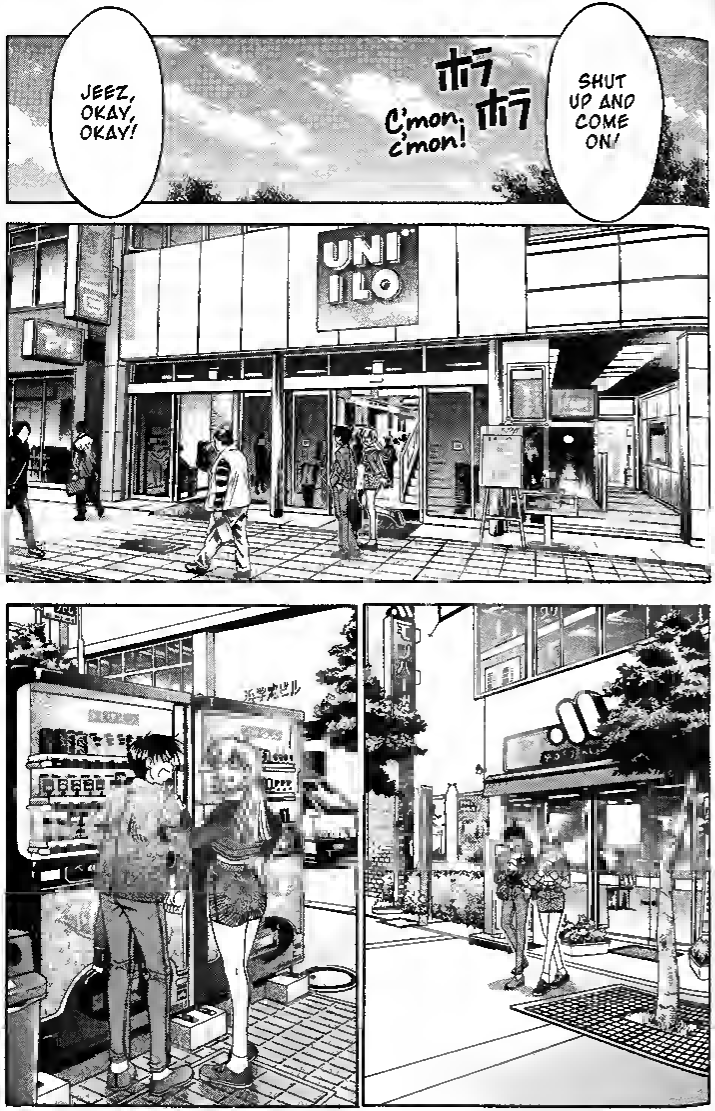
...AND I WAS ONLY GONE FOR ONE DAY!!
WHAT FOR? IT'S A LONG WAY FOR YOU TO TRAVEL...

I ASKED LANOLADY-SAN
I got the location from Saionji-san.

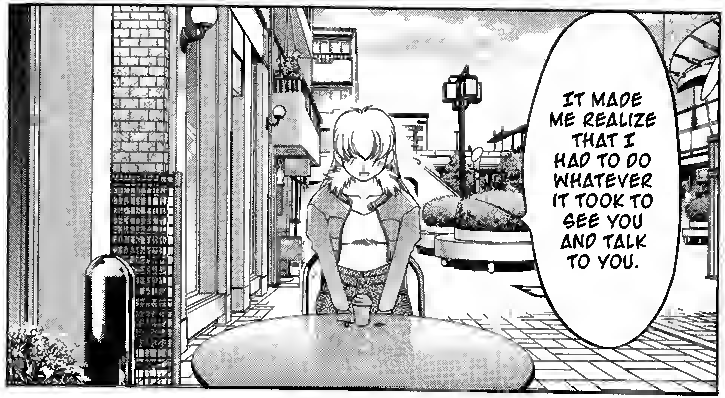
AND HOW DID YOU KNOW I'D BE HERE, ANYWAY?

BECAUSE I WANTED TO SEE YOU!!
HEY, HEY, HEY, --!!
Augh--
あ～もぉ

WOW, YOU COME FROM A RITZY PART OF TOWN.
HEY, KAORU, SHOW ME AROUND.
EH?! OKAY, BUT IT'S ACTUALLY PRETTY DULL.

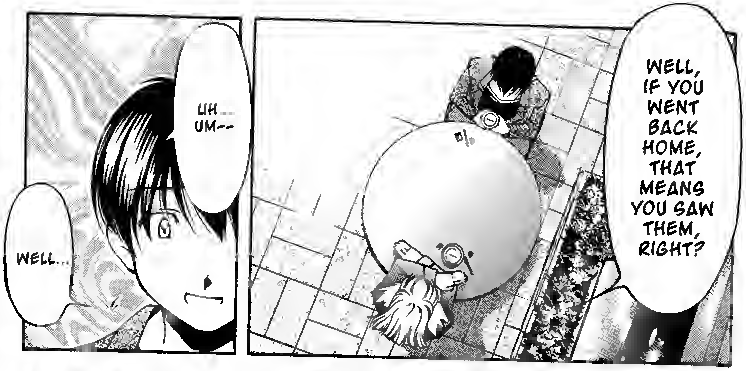

JEEZ, OKAY, OKAY!
ホラ C'mon, c'mon! ホラ
SHUT UP AND COME ON!
UNIQLO

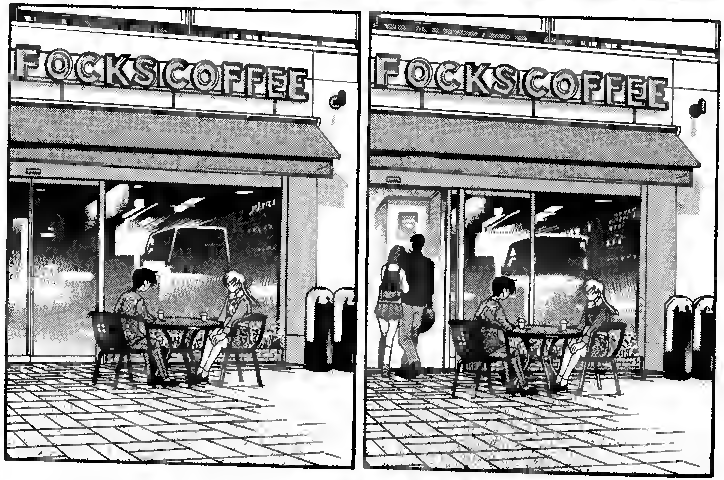
OOOHHH... WOW!
SO THIS IS THE SORT OF PLACE YOU HUNG OUT IN AS A KID?
OH, HEY, NEXT TIME, YOU WANT TO SEE WHERE I USED TO LIVE?
YOU MEAN KYUSHU?!
NO, I SUPPOSE NOT.
THEN AGAIN, IF YOU REALLY WANT A THING TO HAPPEN...
SURE. OR MAYBE AMERICA.
THAT'S NOT LIKELY TO HAPPEN.
ABOUT ME?!
YUP.
THE THING IS, YOU AND I HAVE BEEN FRIENDS ALL THIS TIME...
...AND I STILL DON'T KNOW VERY MUCH ABOUT YOU.
IT'S JUST THAT YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE...
...KAORU TALKS TO... LANDLADY-SAN.


IT MADE ME REALIZE THAT I HAD TO DO WHATEVER IT TOOK TO SEE YOU AND TALK TO YOU.

I WANTED IT TO HAPPEN, SO IT DID.

HEY!
YOUR MOM AND DAD.
WHAT WERE THEY LIKE?
EH?!


UH... UM--
WELL...
WELL, IF YOU WENT BACK HOME, THAT MEANS YOU SAW THEM, RIGHT?

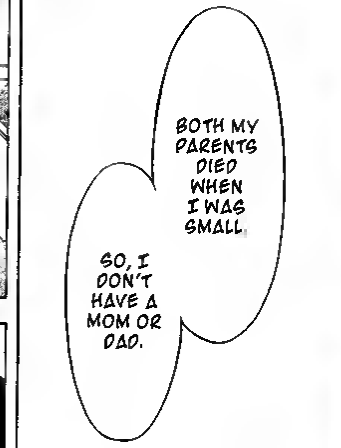

FOCKSCOFFEE
FOCKSCOFFEE

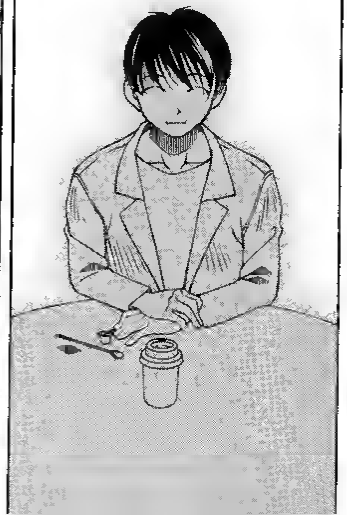
SO HE REALLY...
WON'T TALK TO ME, WILL HE?

OH . I-I'M SO SORRY.
IT'S OKAY.

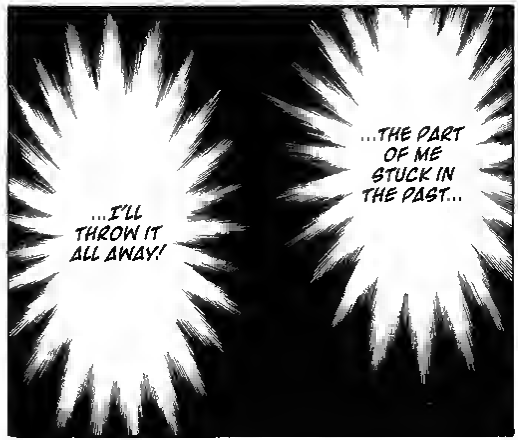
I'M...
I'M JUST NOT USED TO TALKING ABOUT MYSELF WITH OTHER PEOPLE

BUT... FOR SOME REASON ..


BOTH MY PARENTS DIED WHEN I WAS SMALL
SO, I DON'T HAVE A MOM OR DAD.

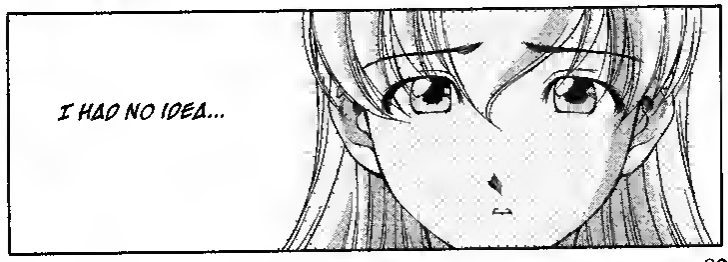


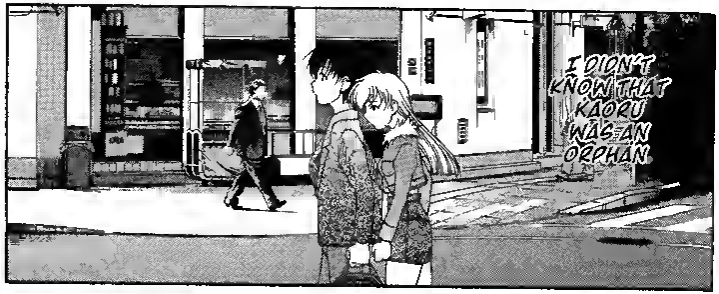
...I DON'T HAVE A MOM OR A DAD.


...I'LL THROW IT ALL AWAY!
...THE PART OF ME STUCK IN THE PAST...

WHAT?!

I FEEL LIKE...LIKE THINGS ARE GOING TO GET BETTER.


I HAD NO IDEA...

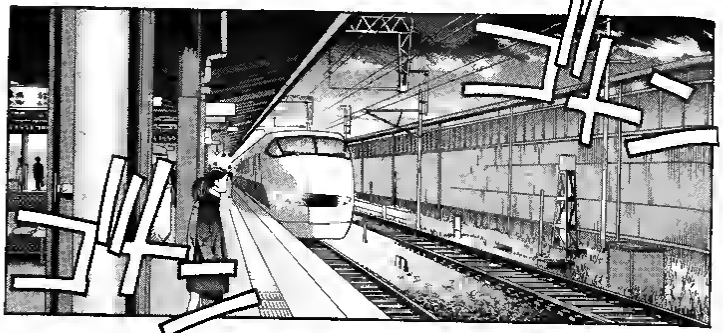

I DIDN'T KNOW THAT KAORU WAS AN ORPHAN.

NO WONDER HE DOESN'T TALK ABOUT IT.

I WANT...

IT'S WHY HE'S ALWAYS SEEMED SO LONELY.

I WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT KAORU.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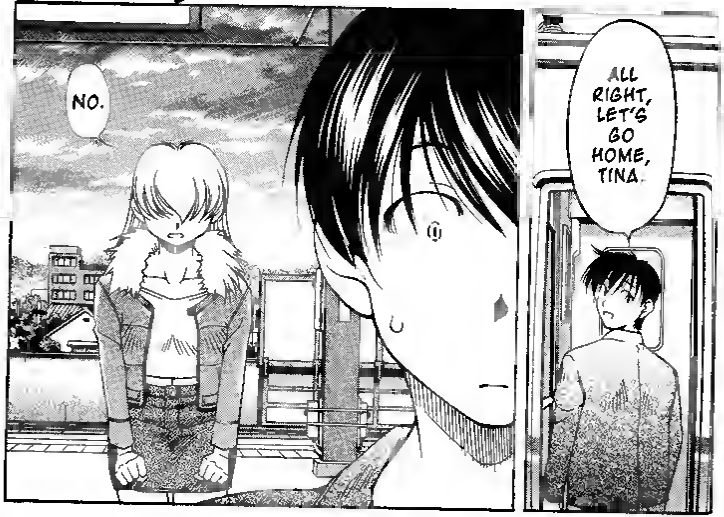
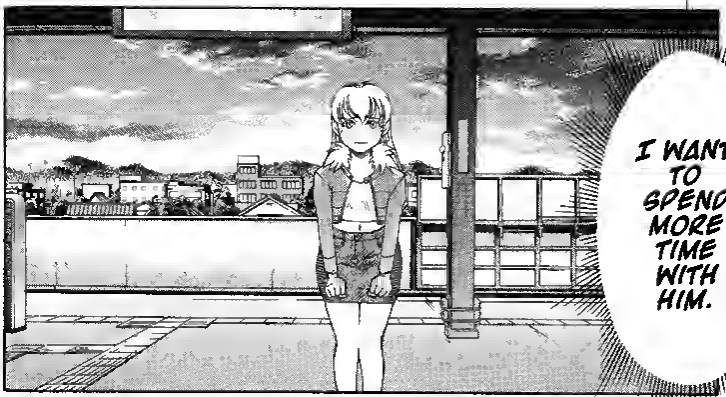

NO.
ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO HOME, TINA.

...EH?!

KAORU!!

I'M FINALLY GETTING A GLIMPSE INSIDE KAORU...


I WANT TO SPEND MORE TIME WITH HIM.

I WANT TO SPEND ALL MY TIME WITH KAORU!

藍より青し

AI YORI AOSHI

CHAPTER 89 AIKUCHI CONFIDANT

End of Chapter 88: Kenren—Infatuation

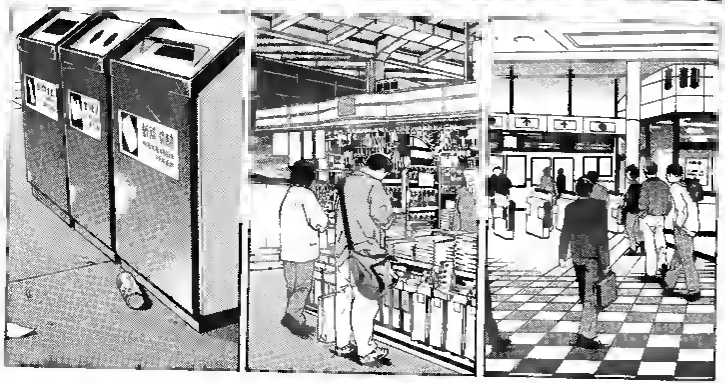
I DON'T UNDER-STAND
YOU TOLD ME YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TO.
WH-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, TINA?
STOP JOKING AROUND. IT'S NOT FUNNY.
C'MON, TINA, STOP.
TINA, ANSWER ME!!
YOU'RE NOT GOING BACK TO AMERICA.
TELL ME! ADMIT IT'S A JOKE.

BECAUSE...
BECAUSE

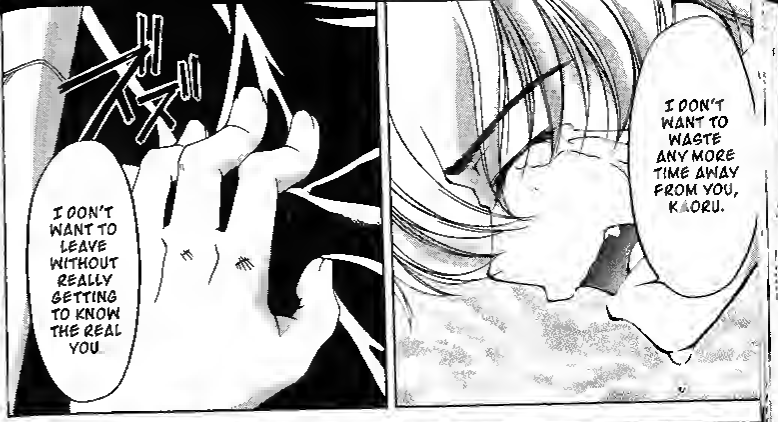
I WON'T BE ABLE TO STAY IN JAPAN MUCH LONGER!
THEY'RE MAKING ME GO BACK TO AMERICA!

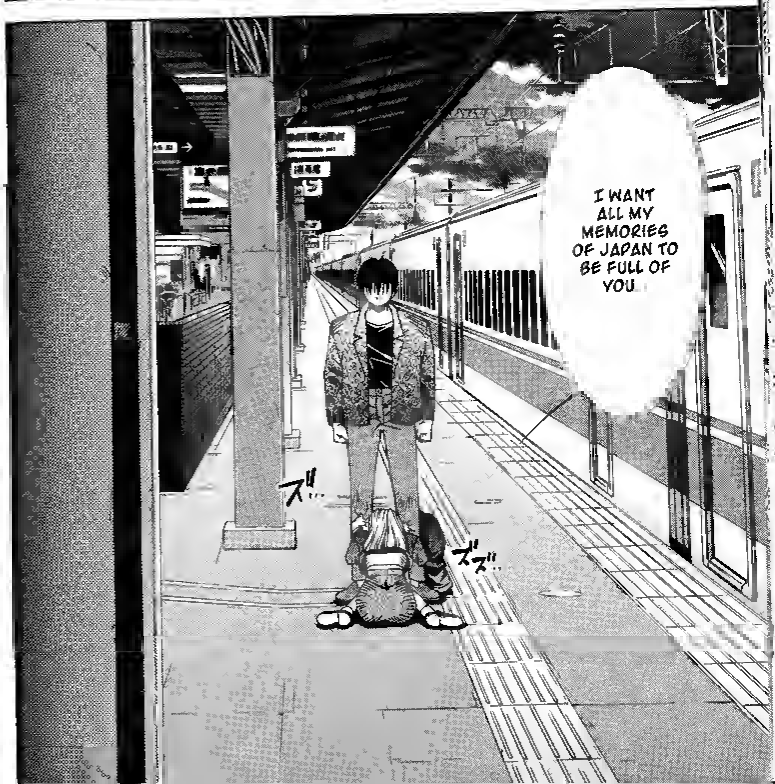
I'M SORRY
I'M SO SORRY, KAORU!
BUT
BUT THEN...?
...KAORU.

I'M SORRY!



MM...
FEELING BETTER ?!

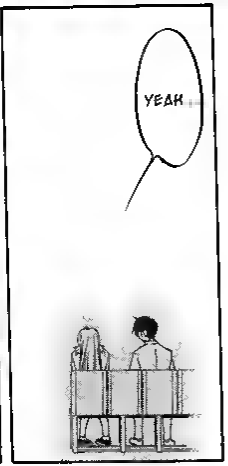

I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE WITHOUT REALLY GETTING TO KNOW THE REAL YOU.
I DON'T WANT TO WASTE ANY MORE TIME AWAY FROM YOU, KAORU.


I WANT ALL MY MEMORIES OF JAPAN TO BE FULL OF YOU.
ズ!!..
ズズ!!..

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
YOU'RE GOING BACK...
ISN'T THERE SOMETHING YOU CAN DO TO STOP IT? OR EVEN JUST POSTPONE IT?
IT WAS SET UP TO BE THIS WAY FROM THE START.
AND...
I HAVE TO KEEP MY PROMISE TO MOM AND DAD.
506
B-BUT, LOOK, IT'S NOT LIKE WE'LL NEVER SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN.
IT'S LIKE YOU SAID, IF WE WANT SOMETHING TO HAPPEN, IT CAN
NOOOO!!
I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE YOU, KAORU...!
EH?!
I GUESS WE NEED TO GET STARTED THEN.

TINA, YOU AND I HAVE TO GET STARTED
...IF WE'RE GOING TO MAKE A LOT OF MEMORIES.

THE SAKURABA... THEY'RE GOING TO EVENTUALLY TEAR THIS HOUSE DOWN

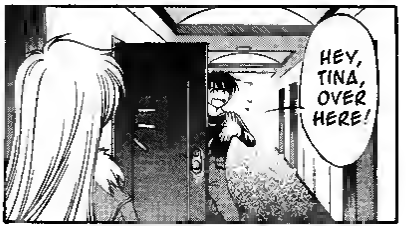

YEAH

.....

WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE...
...LOTS OF FUN MEMORIES WITH EVERYONE!

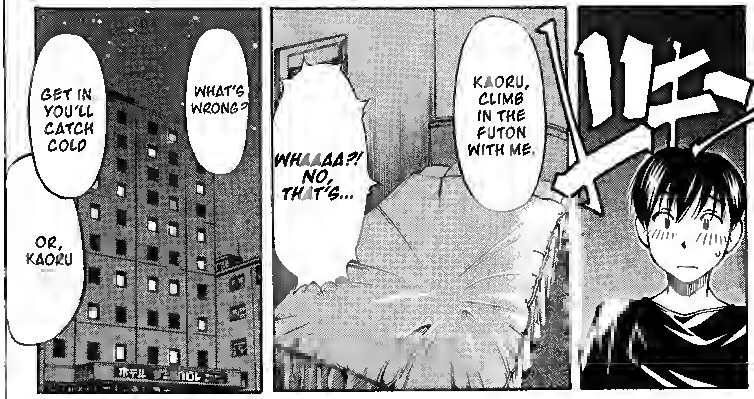
I-I'M SORRY, KAORU...
IT'S FINE... I'M NOT IN THAT BIG OF A HURRY.
OKAY...
I'm out money!
BUT WE'RE SPLITTING THE COST OF THE HOTEL!
HEH HEH.
WHAT?!
I WAS JUST THINKING, I HAVE ANOTHER MEMORY WITH KAORU THAT'S A LITTLE LIKE THIS ONE.
THE SAME THING HAPPENED TO US BEFORE, REMEMBER?
WE MISSED THE TRAIN AND HAD TO STAY IN A HOTEL.
BACK THEN, MY HEART WAS BEATING LIKE IT'D POP OUT OF MY CHEST.

DID ANYONE SEE YOU?
HEH HEH. NO WAY.


HEY, TINA, OVER HERE!

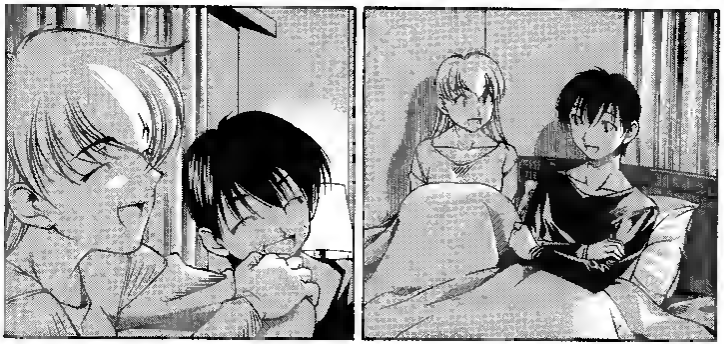
MAN... I DIDN'T THINK I'D BE SPENDING ANOTHER NIGHT IN THIS WRETCHED TOWN.
THAT BULLET TRAIN YOU MISSED WAS THE LAST ONE, EH?

IT'S THE SAME NOW
IT'S GOING A MILLION MILES AN HOUR

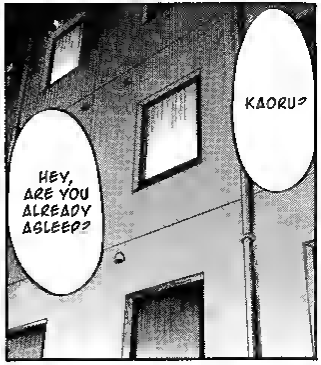

WHAT'S WRONG?
GET IN YOU'LL CATCH COLD
OR, KAORU
WHAAAA?! NO, THAT'S...
KAORU, CLIMB IN THE FUTON WITH ME.

. ARE YOU AFRAID TO SLEEP WITH ME?

O-OKAY, IN THAT CASE..
JUST KIDDING I WON'T MOLEST YOU
I JUST WANT TO TALK



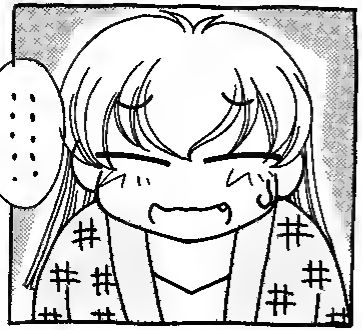
YOU POOR THING.. YOU DID SEEM PRETTY TIRED TODAY.


KAORU?
HEY, ARE YOU ALREADY ASLEEP?

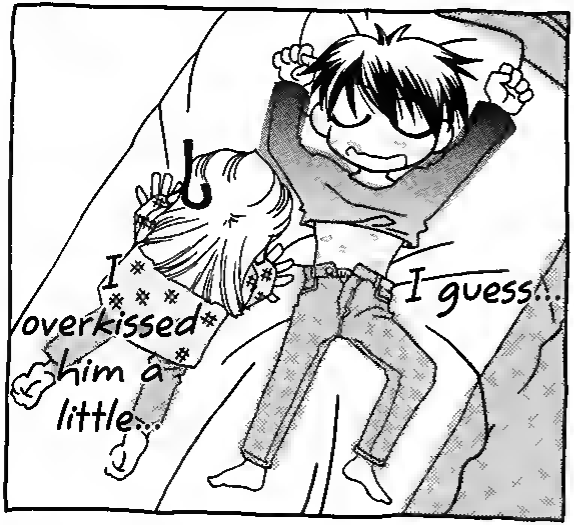
thump
thump

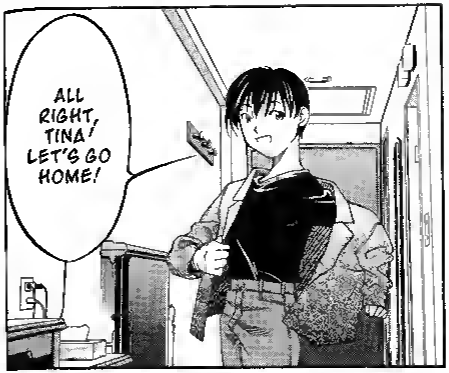
thump
thump
thump
thump
...I DID IT!

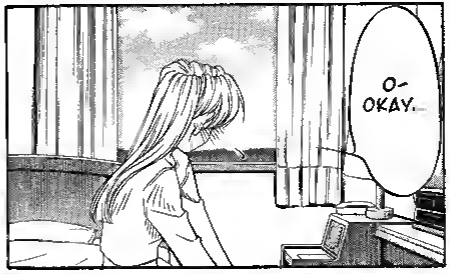
I-I GUESS IT'D BE OKAY TO TAKE ONE MORE GO...
Zzz
smooch
I CAN KISS HIM JUST A LITTLE HARDER BUT ONLY A LITTLE
I CAN KEEP KISSING HIM
EACH ONE IS ITS OWN MEMORY



Ai-Ao Theatre, part 24: Kiss







End of Chapter 89: Aikuchi—Confidant

藍より青し

AI YORI AOSHI

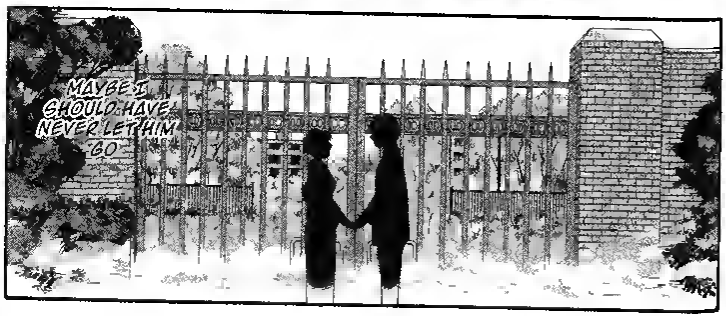
CHAPTER 90 MACHIUDO AWAITED

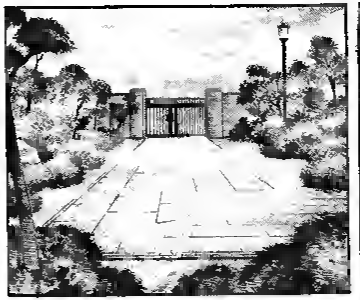
藍より青し

KAORU-SAMA...
I WONDER IF HE'LL BE COMING HOME TODAY?

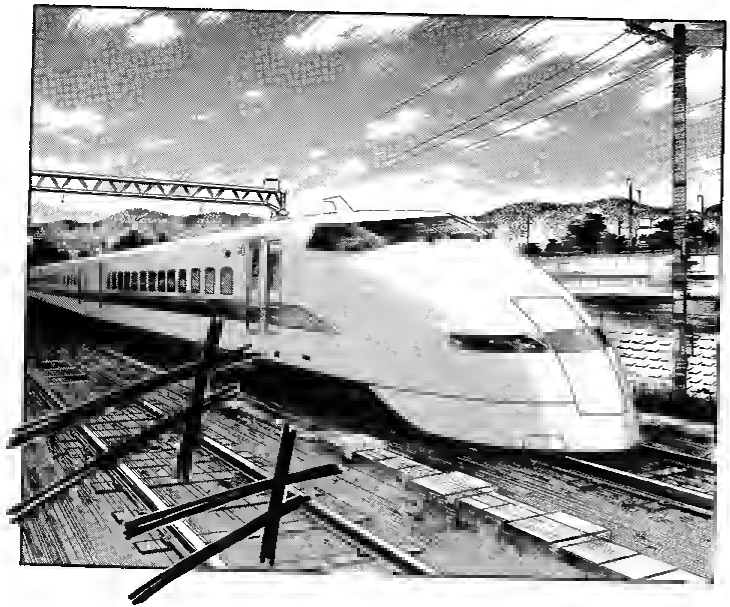
I...
IF ANY-THING WERE TO HAP-PEN TO KAORU-SAMA...

I HOPE THIS TRIP WASN'T TOO ROUGH ON HIM

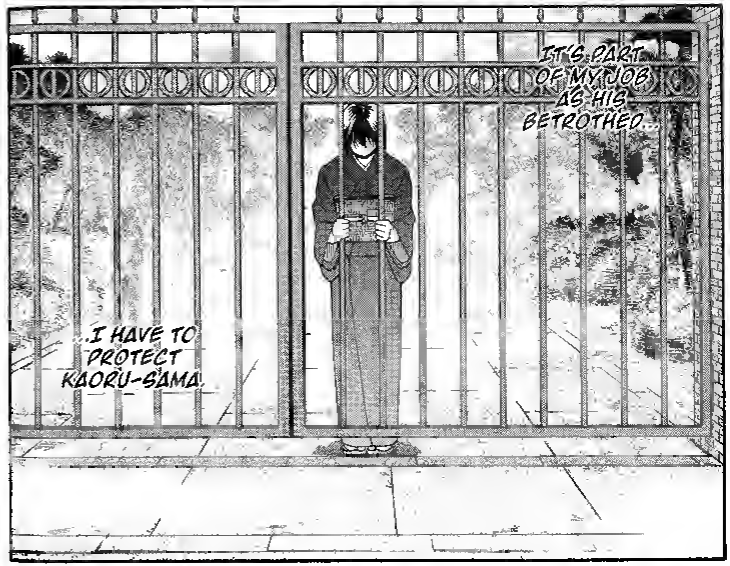

MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE NEVER LET HIM GO

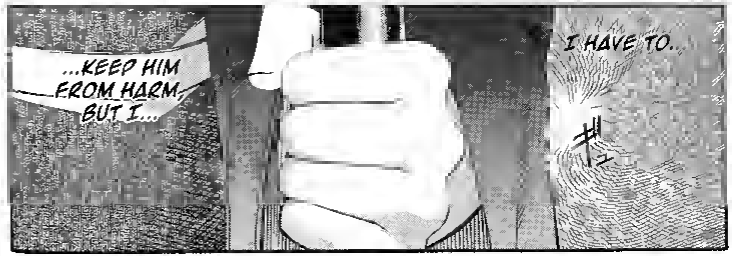


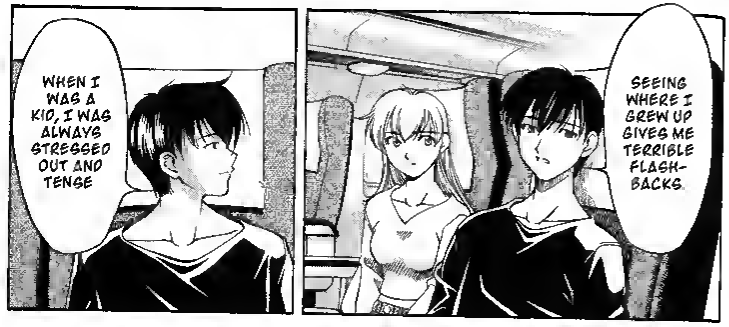
...KAORU-SAMA.

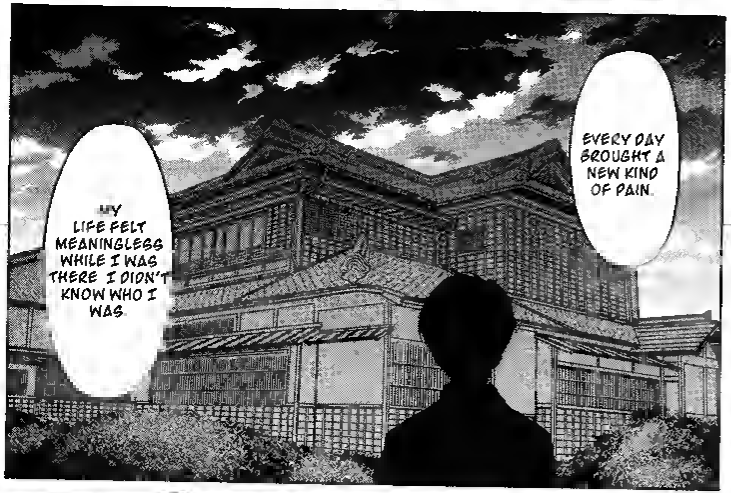


I SHOULD HAVE INSISTED HE STAY.


IT'S PART OF MY JOB AS HIS BETROTHED...
...I HAVE TO PROTECT KAORU-SAMA.

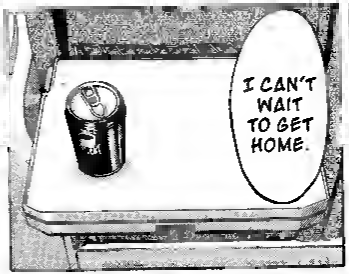

...KEEP HIM FROM HARM, BUT I...
I HAVE TO.


WHEN I WAS A KID, I WAS ALWAYS STRESSED OUT AND TENSE
SEEING WHERE I GREW UP GIVES ME TERRIBLE FLASH-BACKS.


MY LIFE FELT MEANINGLESS WHILE I WAS THERE. I DIDN'T KNOW WHO I WAS.
EVERY DAY BROUGHT A NEW KIND OF PAIN.

I'M DIFFERENT NOW.
BUT LIKE YOU SAID, TINA, THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO.

COCOA
HERE, KAORU!


I CAN'T WAIT TO GET HOME.

I FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN GONE FOREVER.
REALLY?

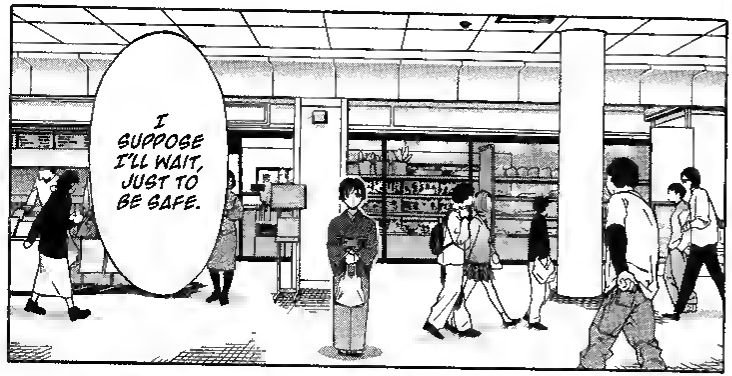
OH, NICE. THANKS.

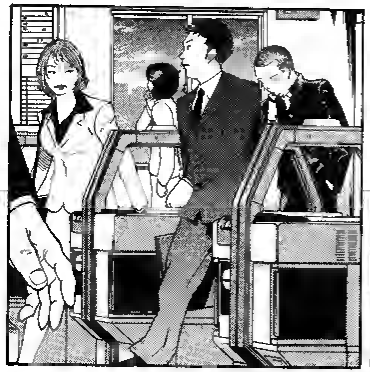
I DIDN'T REALIZE IT BEFORE...
...BUT NOW THAT I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT, I KNOW YOU'RE RIGHT.
I FEEL LIKE A DIFFERENT PERSON THAN THE ONE THAT GREW UP AT THAT HOUSE.
I HAVE AOI-CHAN...
AND MIYABI-SAN
AND YOU, TINA.
PLUS, TAEKO-CHAN, MAYU-CHAN...
CHIKA-CHAN...
...AND EVEN UZUME
YUP.
Zzz

LIVING WITH EVERYONE, I KNOW FOR THE FIRST TIME WHAT IT FEELS LIKE..
...TO HAVE A FAMILY.
THAT'S WHY GOING BACK TO THAT PLACE DEPRESSED ME SO MUCH.
I HAVE TO ADMIT, WHEN I SAW YOU THERE, I WAS RELIEVED.
YOU INSTANTLY MADE ME FEEL BETTER
HO HO HO NO, REALLY?

I GUESS YOU CAN'T SAY YOUR HOME-TOWN DOESN'T HOLD ANY GOOD MEMORIES NOW.
I-I MADE SOME MEMORIES, TOO...
HA HA, YOU'RE RIGHT.
...IT WOULD BE LAME NOT TO HAVE TONS OF FUN
SEEING AS MY TIME IS GROWING SHORT...
WELL, THAT IS YOUR NUMBER ONE TALENT, TINA.
WHEN EVERYONE'S HAVING FUN, I'M HAVING FUN!
WHEN WE GET HOME, LET'S MAKE SURE EVERYONE GOES CRAZY.

YOU KNOW IT!!
I'M JUST A GIANT BALL OF DELIGHT ALL ON MY OWN!


I SUPPOSE I'LL WAIT, JUST TO BE SAFE.



KIYOSUKE

IF HE'S COMING HOME... THE NEXT TRAIN COULD BE HIS.

ANOTHER YEAR HAS GONE BY WITHOUT ME FINDING KAORU-SAMA.
MAYBE NEXT YEAR WILL BE THE SAME.
NO, THAT'S NO WAY TO THINK.
I HAVE TO BELIEVE IN MYSELF...
...AND IN KAORU-SAMA!!

IT'S BEEN THREE DAYS SINCE KAORU-SAMA LEFT.
TIME GOES VERY, VERY SLOWLY WHEN KAORU-SAMA ISN'T AROUND...
IT WAS THE SAME WAY BEFORE WE WERE REUNITED.

I HAVE TO STAY STRONG!!

I'M SURE HE WILL COME HOME.
YES!!

BECAUSE NO MATTER WHAT KAORU-SAMA DECIDES...
...THE BOND WE SHARE WILL KEEP US TOGETHER.

KAORU-SAMA!!

AOI-CHAN?!

LANDLADY-SAN...?

End of Chapter 90: Machiudo—Awaited

WH-WHY IS TINA-SAN WITH YOU, KAORU-SAMA?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HANGING AROUND THE TRAIN STATION, LANDLADY-SAN?!
ギク

TH-THAT IS, UM...
EH?!

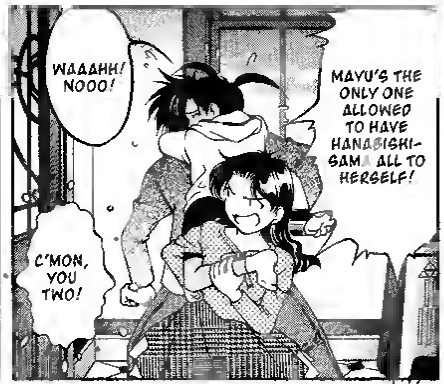
I'M HO--
HANABISHI-SAMA!!!
C'MON, CALM DOWN, CHIKA-CHAN...
CHIKA-CHAN?!
TEE-HEE! TODAY, MAYU IS NUMBER ONE.
HANABISHI-SAMAAA, MAYU MISSED YOU SO MUCH...!
WA-WAAA!!

WHAA-AAA--?!
I WENT ALL THE WAY TO KAORU'S HOMETOWN TO FIND HIM.
I SUPPOSE OUR REASONS ARE THE SAME. WE BOTH REALLY WANTED TO SEE KAORU.
WHAT? IT'S TRUE.
O-OAEN IT, TINA!!
I-IS THAT TRUE, KAORU-SAMA?!
COULD IT BE THAT YOU WANTED TO GO, TOO, LANDLADY-SAN?!
OH!!
OH, IT'S N-NOTHING...
HUH? WHAT'S WRONG, LANDLADY-SAN?
I GET IT. IN THAT CASE, I SHOULD HAVE INVITED YOU.

KYA!!
UWAAAHH!!
WOA-AAH!
--ACK?!
WHAT-EVER, JUST GET OFF!!
GASP! I CAN'T BREATHE!
GAAAAAH!!
TEE HEE HEE. WOOPSIE...

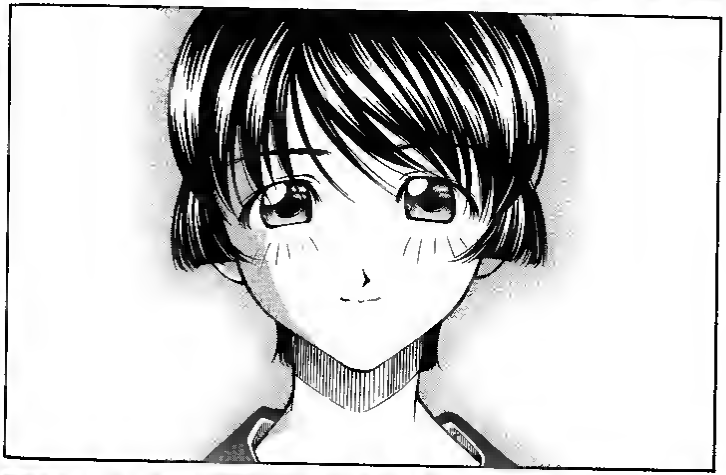
YAAAAY!! ONII-CHAAAAN!

WEL-COME BA--
AH! SENPAI!


WAAAHH! NOOO!
C'MON, YOU TWO!
MAYU'S THE ONLY ONE ALLOWED TO HAVE HANABISHI-SAMA ALL TO HERSELF!

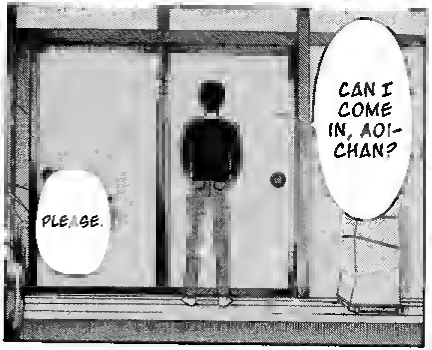
IT DOES

AW HAW HAW!
THIS ISN'T FUNNY, TINA-SENPAI!!



MIYABI-SAN

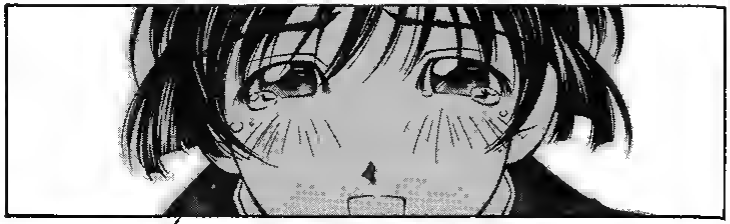
IT APPEARS HIS TRIP LEFT HIM UN-HARMED


CAN I COME IN, AOI-CHAN?
PLEASE.

!!

WELCOME HOME, KAORU-SAMA.

YES. THIS IS MY HOME



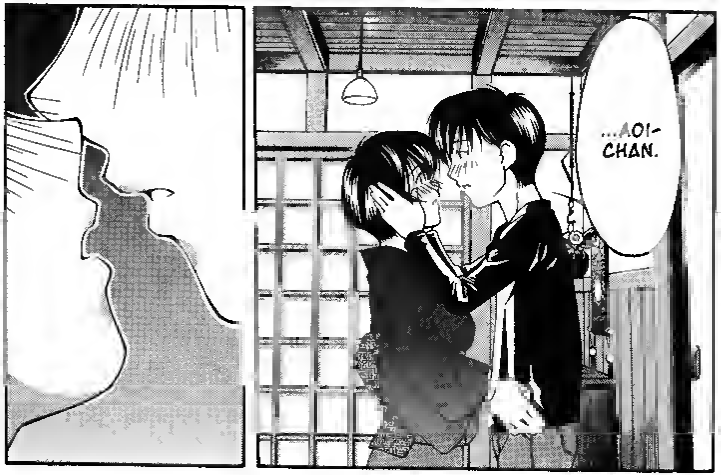
KAORU-SAMAAA!!

.....
YEAH ACTUALLY
KAORU-SAMA

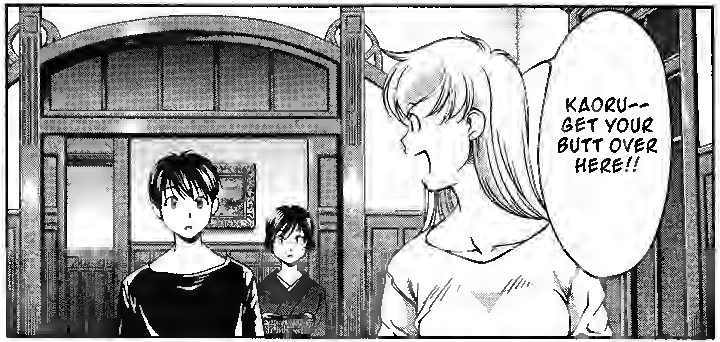
I'M SO GLAD YOU RETURNED SAFELY TO ME

...AOI-CHAN
IT'S ALL RIGHT
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING, KAORU-SAMA

THE SIMPLE FACT THAT YOU CAME BACK TO ME...
...MAKES AOI VERY HAPPY.


...AOI-CHAN.

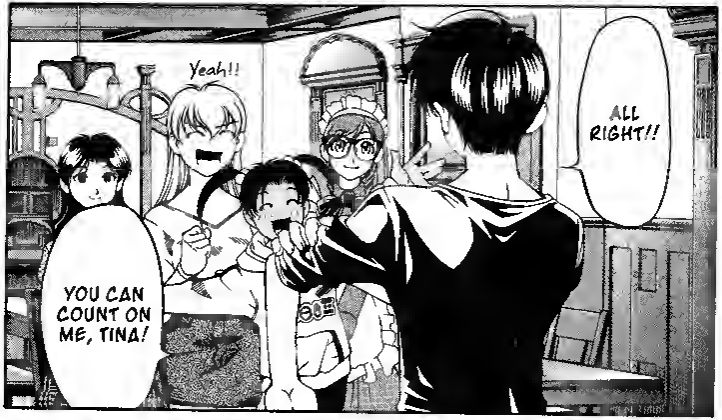
MY AOI-CHAN.
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, AOI-CHAN, I'LL NEVER LEAVE YOU AGAIN.
...KAORU-SAMA.
I'M SORRY I WORRIED YOU
OKAY.
JUST, PLEASE, DON'T SCARE AOI AGAIN
IT WAS QUITE A SHOCK TO SEE YOU AT THE STATION WITH TINA-SAN
I WAS PRETTY SHOCKED MYSELF WHEN SHE SHOWED UP.
IT WASN'T FAIR OF TINA-SAN...
...GOING TO SEE KAORU-SAMA ALL BY HERSELF.


KAORU--
GET YOUR
BUTT OVER
HERE!!

TA-DAH! A
FULL COURSE
OF TINA'S
TRADEMARKED
BEER SNACKS!!

I WISH I HAD
THE GUTS TO
DO SOME OF
THE THINGS
TINA-SAN
DOES.

レレ


Yeah!!
ALL RIGHT!!
YOU CAN COUNT ON ME, TINA!

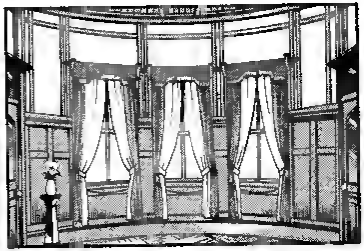
TONIGHT'S ANOTHER NIGHT TO PARTY DOWN!

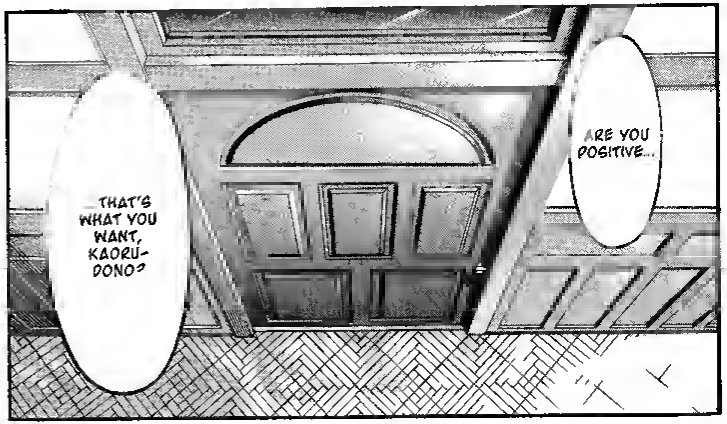
藍より青し

AI YORI AOSHI

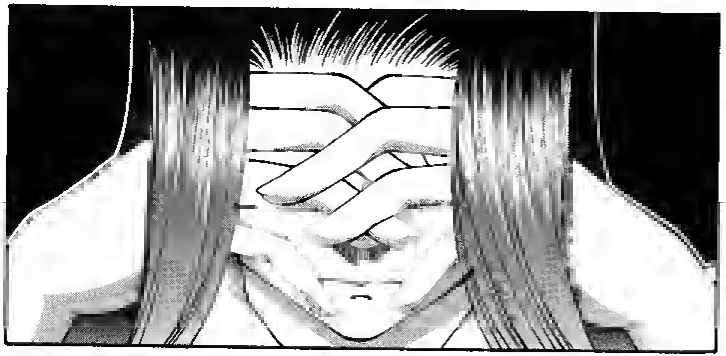
CHAPTER 92 HOHOEMI SMILE

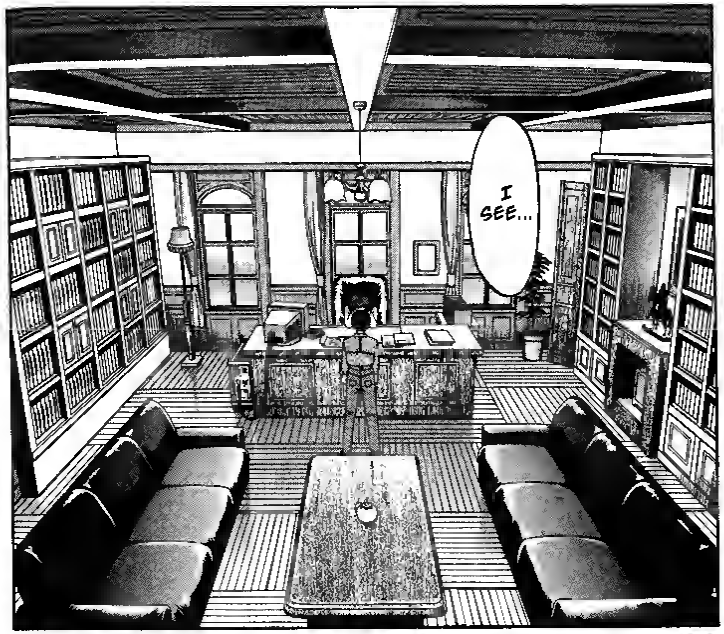
End of Chapter 91: Madoi—Happy Circle

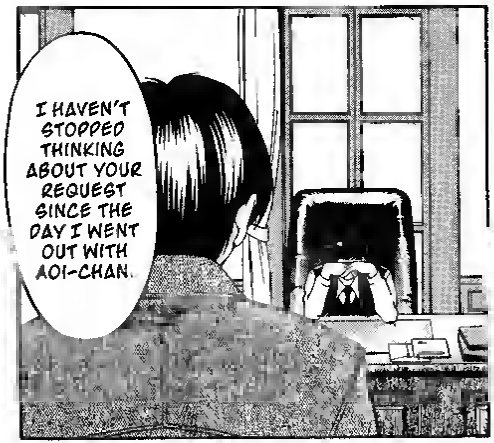



ARE YOU POSITIVE...
...THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT, KAORU-DONO?

YES.
I WILL NEVER BE A PART OF THE HANABISHI FAMILY AGAIN.




I SEE...

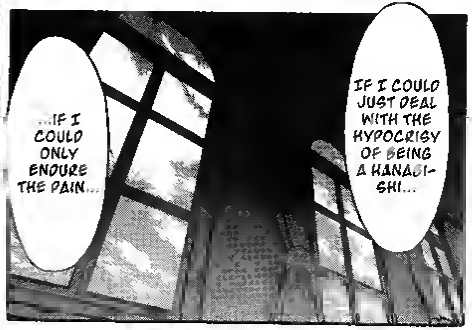

I HAVEN'T STOPPED THINKING ABOUT YOUR REQUEST SINCE THE DAY I WENT OUT WITH AOI-CHAN.

I'M SORRY. I KNOW I AM LETTING YOU DOWN...

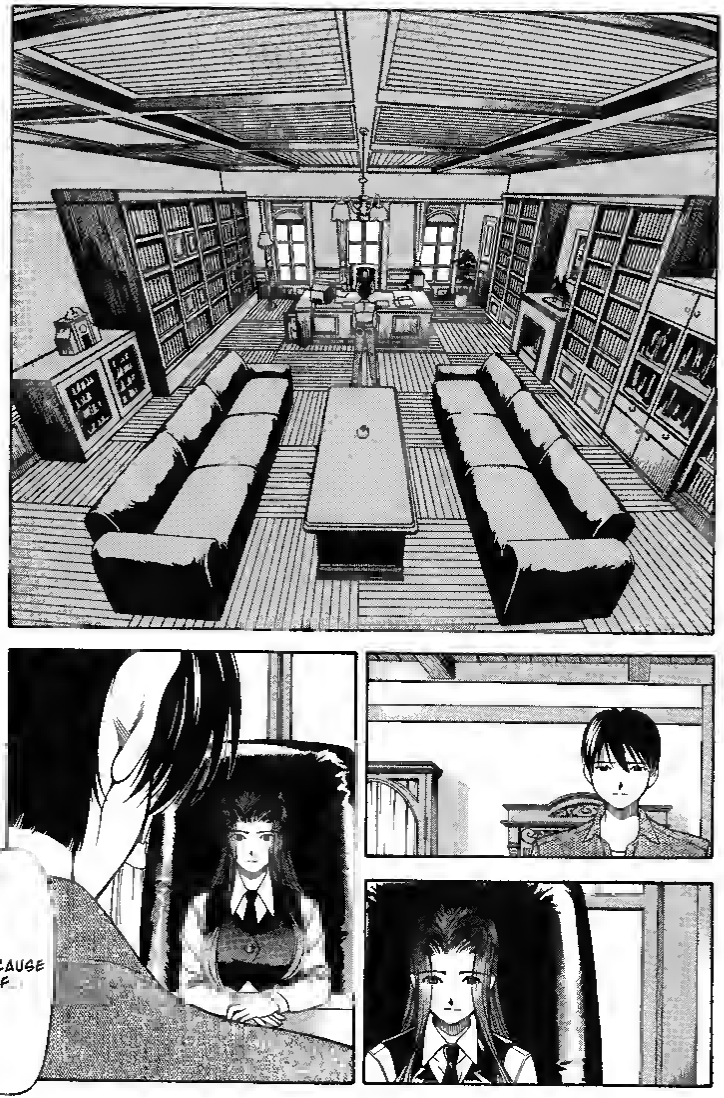
I'VE WORRIED ABOUT MATCHING THE DEPTH OF HER FEELING...
I THOUGHT ABOUT HOW AOI-CHAN NEVER STOPPED LOVING ME SINCE THE MOMENT IT WAS DECIDED THAT WE WOULD MARRY.

...AND HOW I COULD POSSIBLY MAKE SUCH A BEAUTIFUL CREATURE HAPPY.

I THOUGHT THAT WOULD SOMEHOW FIX EVERY-THING.


...IF I COULD ONLY ENDURE THE PAIN...
IF I COULD JUST DEAL WITH THE HYPOCRISY OF BEING A HANAOI-SHI...

BUT THAT KIND OF SACRIFICE IS ONLY GOING TO HURT AOI-CHAN MORE IN THE END, ISN'T IT?
.....


BECAUSE IF...

FORCING MY PAIN ONTO AOI-CHAN--
THAT'S SOMETHING I COULD NEVER DO.

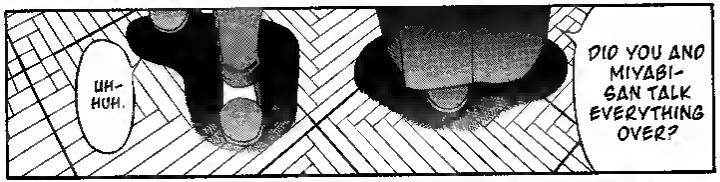
...IF I WERE TO ASSUME THE BURDEN OF BEING A PART OF THAT WICKED FAMILY...
...I WOULD BE FORCING AOI-CHAN TO EMBRACE THEIR WICKEDNESS, AS WELL.

KAORU-DONO...
IT MAKES ME HAPPY THAT YOU ARE AOI-SAMA'S FIANCÉ

AOI-SAMA REALLY DID FIND A FANTASTIC MATCH WHEN SHE FOUND YOU.

AOI-CHAN!
KAORU-SAMA?

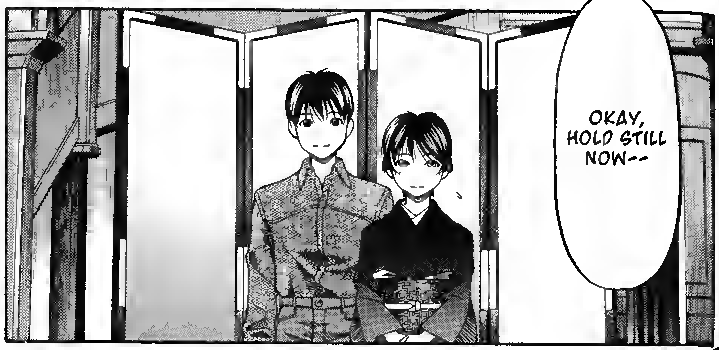
KAORU-SAMAAA!!

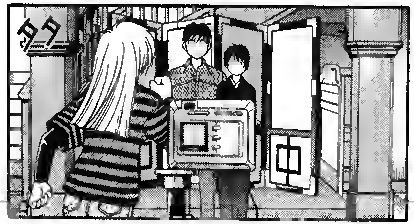

UH-HUH.
DID YOU AND MIYABI-SAN TALK EVERYTHING OVER?

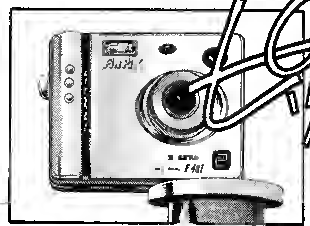
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OVER THERE?
.....
うず うず うず

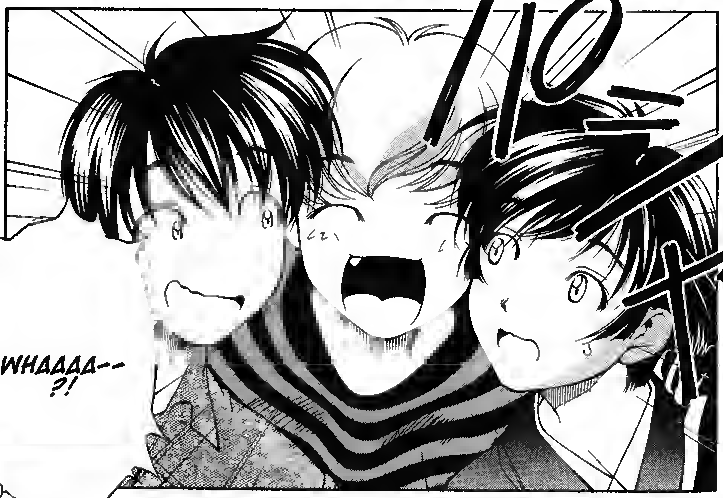
HEE HEE.

HA HA

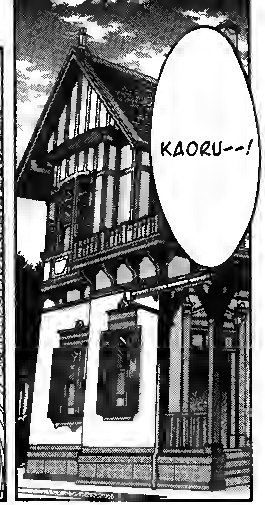

OKAY, HOLD STILL NOW--

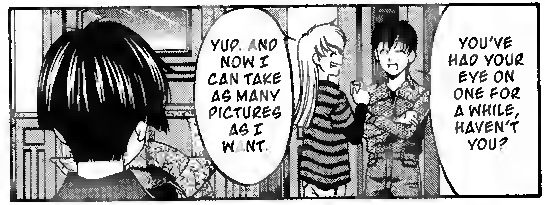




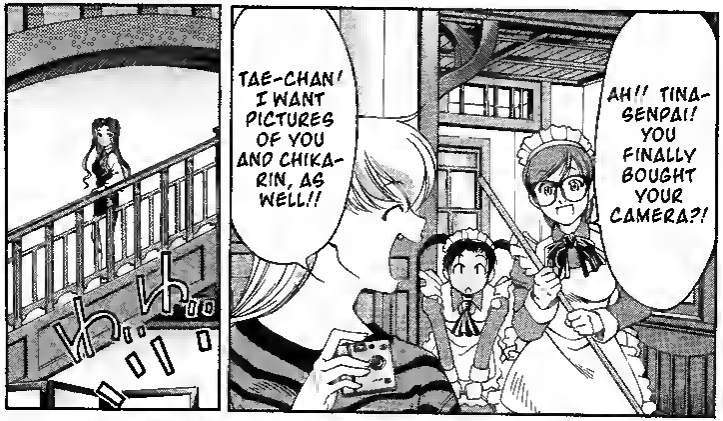

WHAAAA--?!

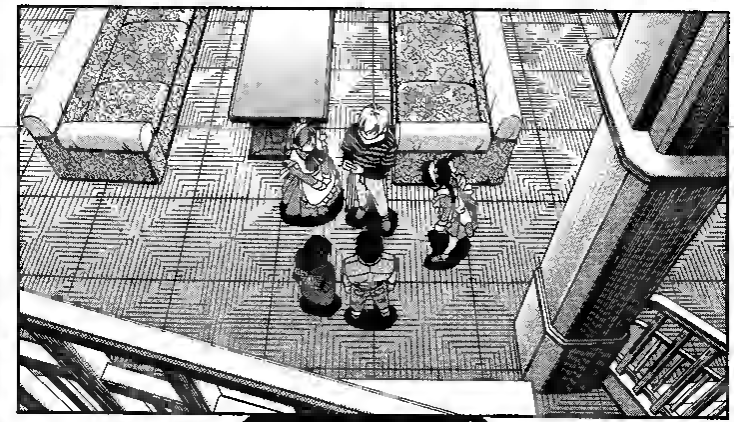
CHECK IT OUT! I BOUGHT A NEW DIGITAL CAMERA!!

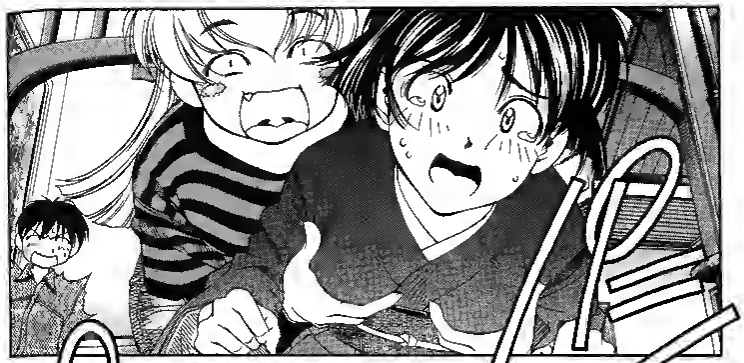

KAORU--!

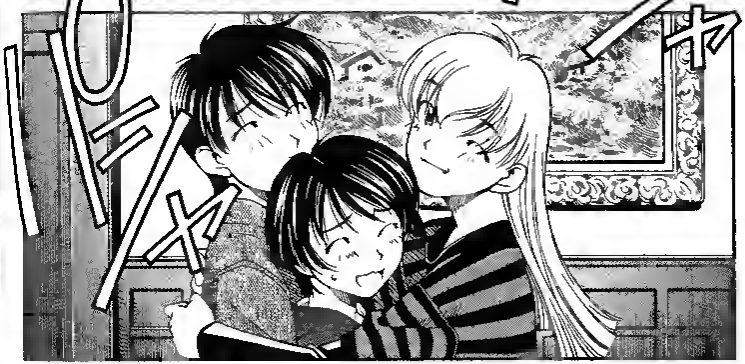

YUP. AND NOW I CAN TAKE AS MANY PICTURES AS I WANT.
YOU'VE HAD YOUR EYE ON ONE FOR A WHILE, HAVEN'T YOU?

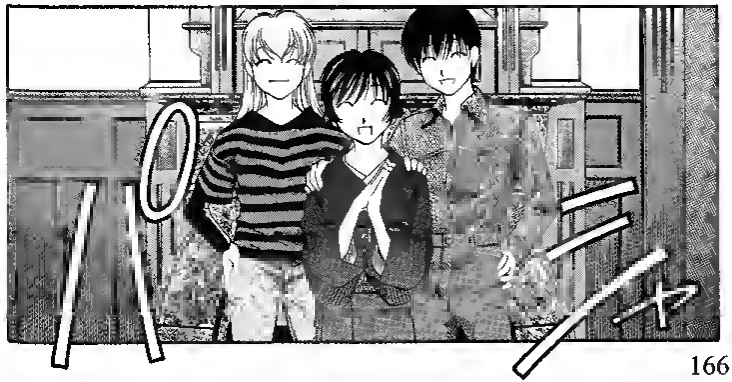
HUH? ARE YOU SURE?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THE CORNER? GET IN THE PICTURE WITH HIM, LANDLADY-SAN!!
Okay.
STAND OVER THERE SO I CAN TEST IT OUT.


TAE-CHAN! I WANT PICTURES OF YOU AND CHIKA-RIN, AS WELL!!
AH!! TINA-SENPAI! YOU FINALLY BOUGHT YOUR CAMERA?!





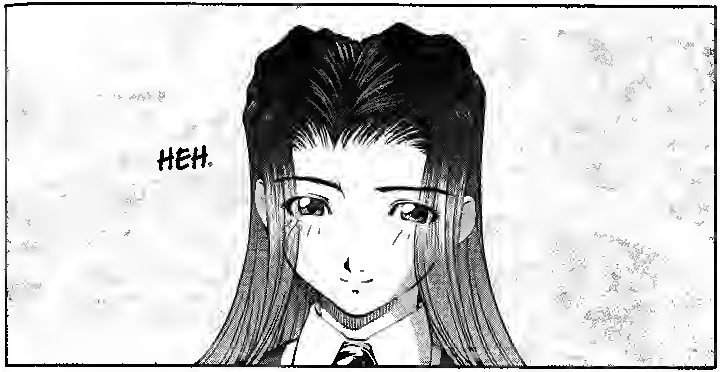




MAYBE...

...AOI-SAMA WOULD BE HAPPIER WITH HER LIFE...
...IF SHE HADN'T BEEN BORN A SAKURABA.

I PRAY...


HEH.

AOI-SAMA REALLY DOES...
...LOOK BEAUTIFUL WHEN SHE SMILES

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AI YORI AOSHI

AI YORI AOSHI

CHAPTER 93 ZENSHIN GRADUAL PROGRESS

I PRAY THAT HER SMILE...

...WILL GO ON FOREVER.

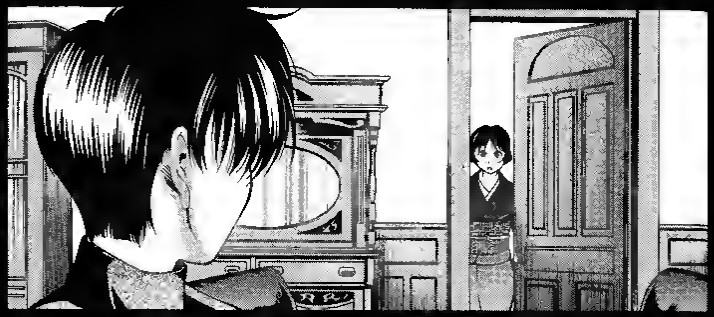
End of Chapter 92: Hohoemi—Smile

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

I'M GLAD THE OBI I ORDERED FINALLY CAME IN.

OH, KAORU-SAMA

I HOPE KAORU-SAMA LIKES IT.



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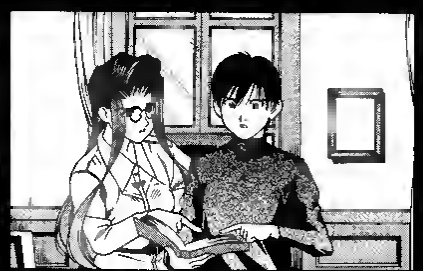
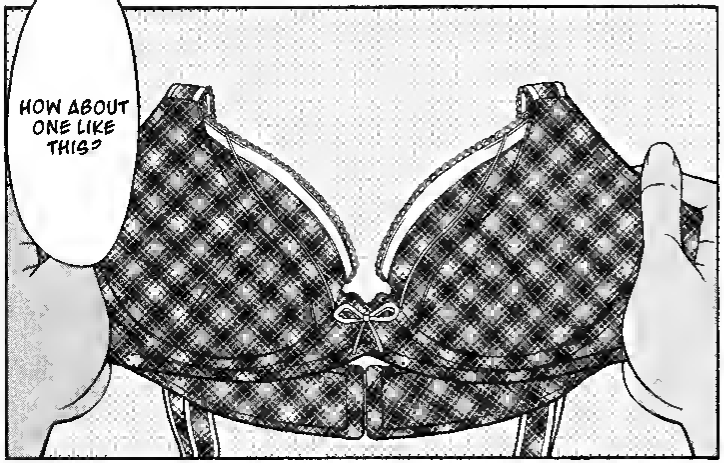
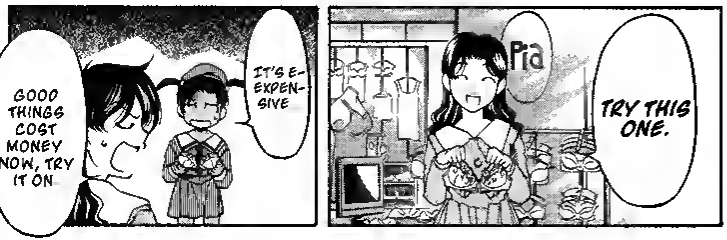


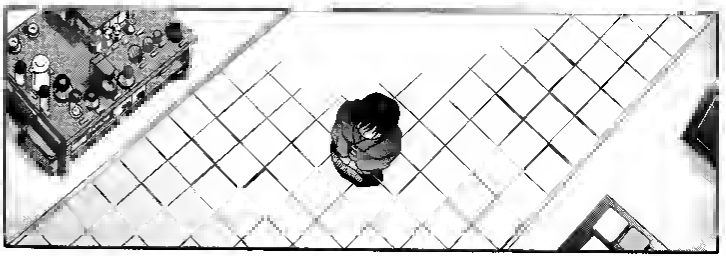

HOW ABOUT ONE LIKE THIS?

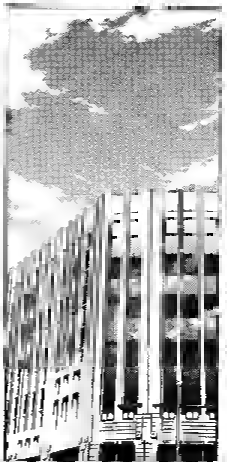
YOU HAVE TO LEARN TO BE PICKY.
IT'S TOO CHEAPLY MADE, CHIKA-SAN, AND IT WON'T SHOW OFF YOUR CURVES VERY WELL


GOOD THINGS COST MONEY NOW, TRY IT ON
IT'S E-EXPEN-SIVE
TRY THIS ONE.

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN NICE IF HE HAD BEEN ABLE TO COME OUT SHOPPING WITH ME

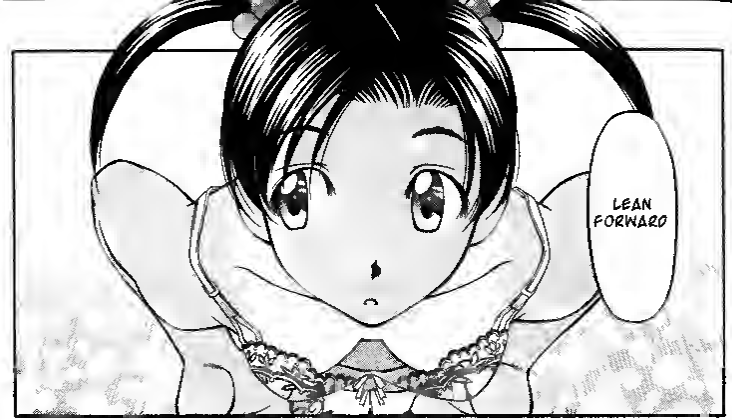
IT SEEMS LIKE KAORU-SAMA HAS BEEN WORKING ALONE WITH MIYABI-SAN A LOT LATELY.

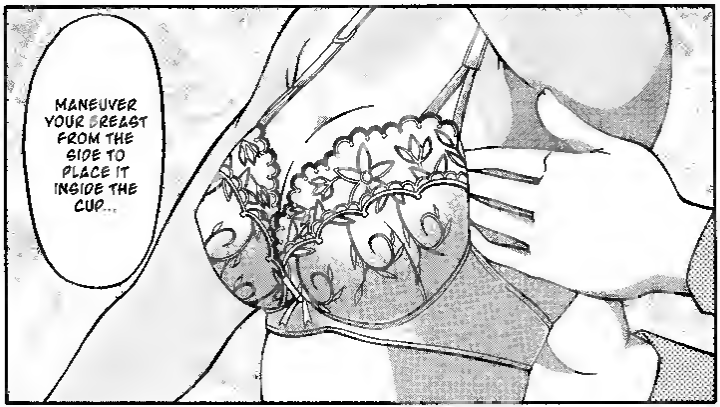




.....BUT, STILL...
...I REALLY GET LONELY SOME-TIMES.

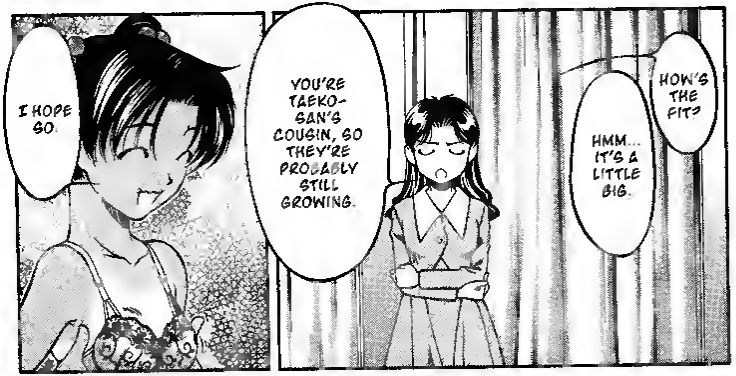
I MUSTN'T BE SELFISH AND KEEP KAORU FROM DOING THE THINGS HE HAS TO DO!!
N-NO, I MUSTN'T

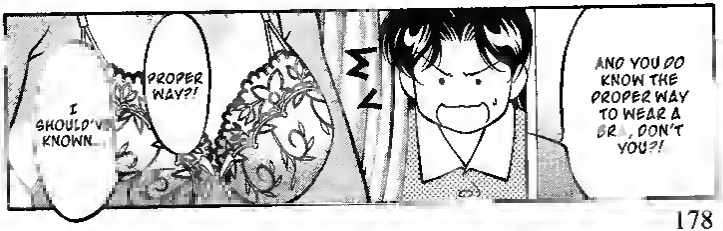

LEAN FORWARD

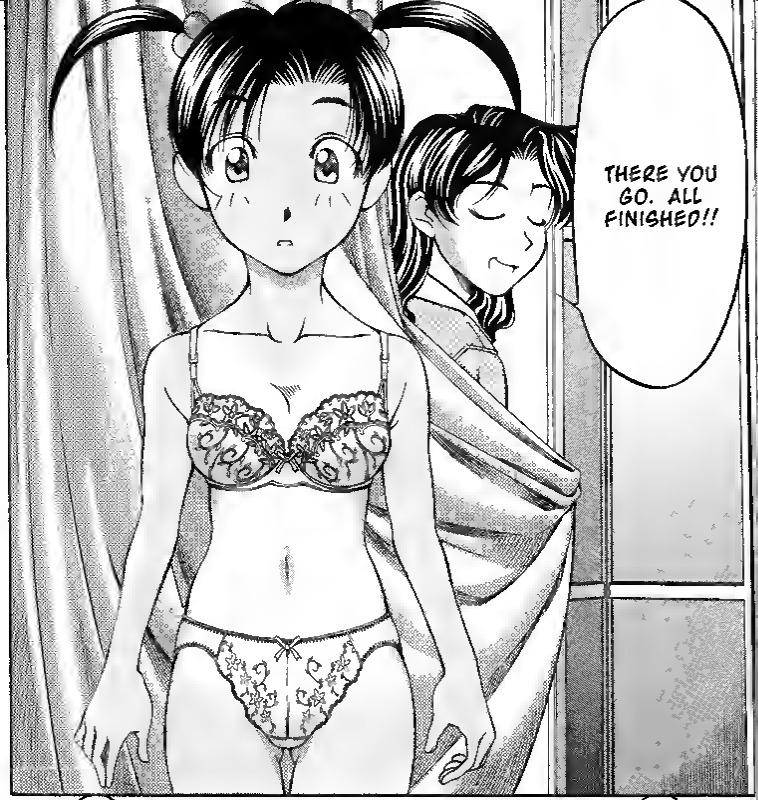

MANEUVER YOUR BREAST FROM THE SIDE TO PLACE IT INSIDE THE CUP...

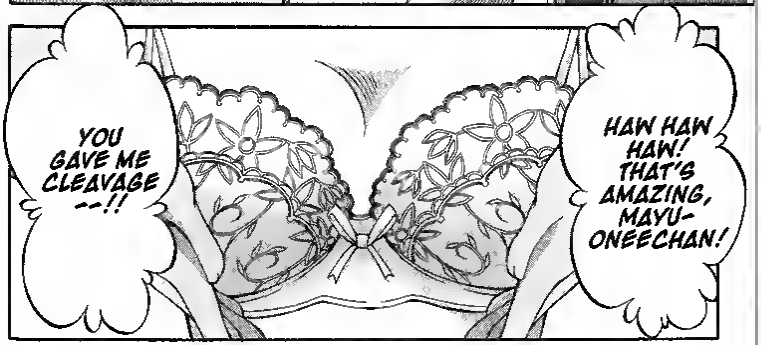
OHH, COME ON, QUIT SQUIRMING!!
WHAT DO YOU THINK WE CAME HERE FOR?!
BWA HA HA HA!! THAT TICKLES!!

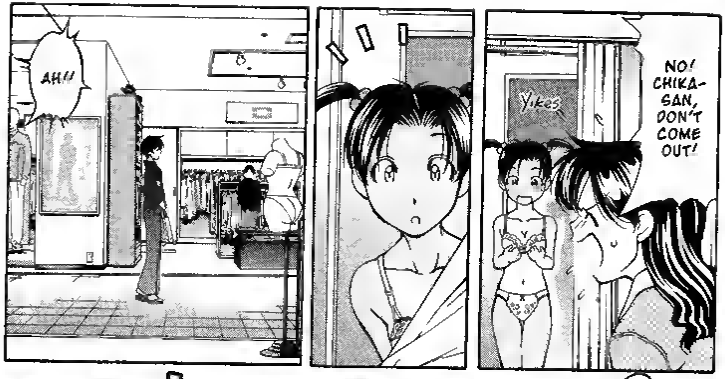
MMFF.


I HOPE SO.
YOU'RE TAEKO-SAN'S COUSIN, SO THEY'RE PROBABLY STILL GROWING.
HMM... IT'S A LITTLE BIG.
HOW'S THE FIT?

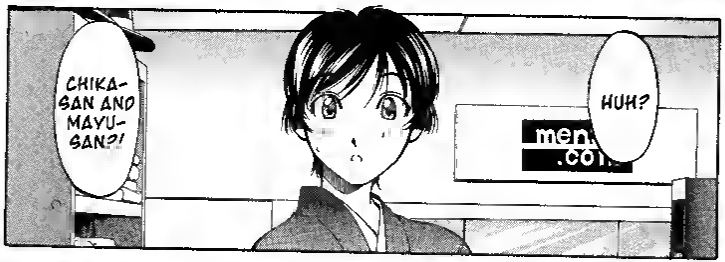

I SHOULD'VE KNOWN...
PROPER WAY?!
MMM
AND YOU DO KNOW THE PROPER WAY TO WEAR A BR , DON'T YOU?!


THERE YOU GO. ALL FINISHED!!


YOU GAVE ME CLEAVAGE --!!
HAW HAW HAW! THAT'S AMAZING, MAYU-ONEECHAN!

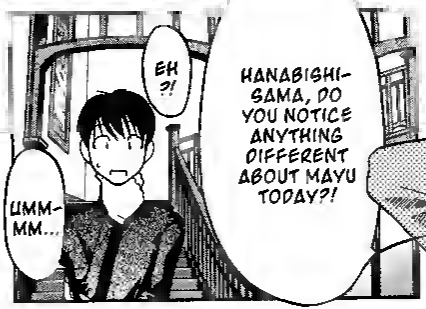

AH!!
NO! CHIKA-SAN, DON'T COME OUT!

姉おねーちゃ～ん!
IT'S AOI-ONEECHAN!!
OOO-HHH, GET BACK IN!!
Onee chan!!


CHIKA-SAN AND MAYU-SAN?!
HUH?

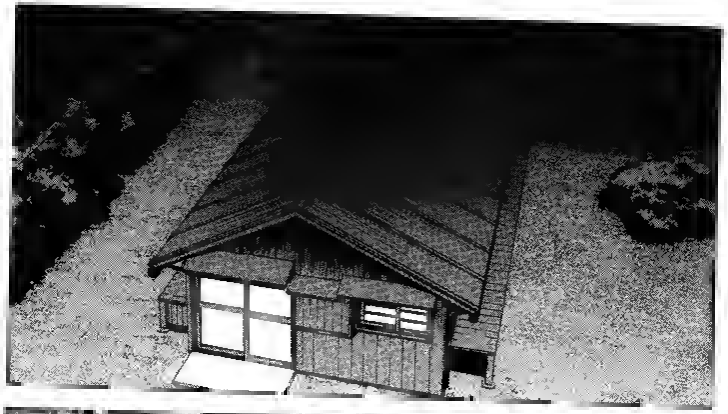
YOU DO PAY ATTENTION TO MAYU!!
I KNEW YOU WOULD NOTICE, HANABISHI-SAMA!!
ONII-CHAN, CHIKA'S DIFFERENT TODAY, TOO!!
MY CLEAVAGE HAS--

ONII-CHAN! WE'RE HOME--!!
WELCOME BACK.


EH ?!
UMM-MM...

HANABISHI-SAMA, DO YOU NOTICE ANYTHING DIFFERENT ABOUT MAYU TODAY?!

Maybe...?
I GOT IT! DID YOU CUT YOUR HAIR?!

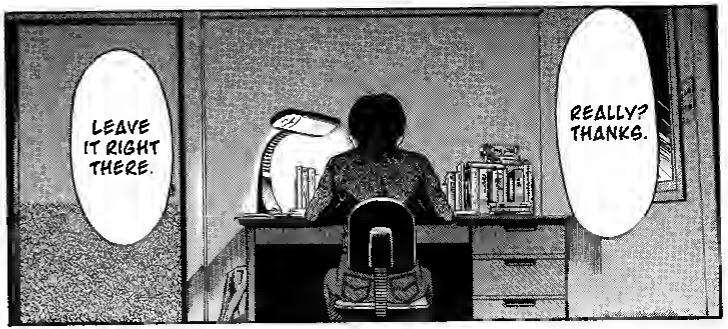


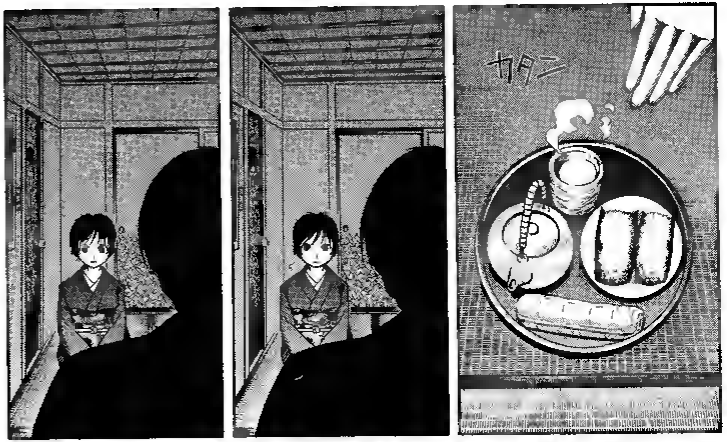
I MADE SOME ONIGIRI FOR A LATE-NIGHT SNACK...
UH, UM... KAORU-SAMA?

NO, NOT EVEN A PEEK!!
MY CLEAVAGE
HOW ABOUT JUST A PEEK?
TEE HEE HEE
Oops
YOU KEEP THOSE THINGS TO YOURSELF, CHIKA-SAN!!

AOI-CHAN, THAT OBI...
It's different than your usual one...

IT'S PRETTY.
OH, THANK YOU!!

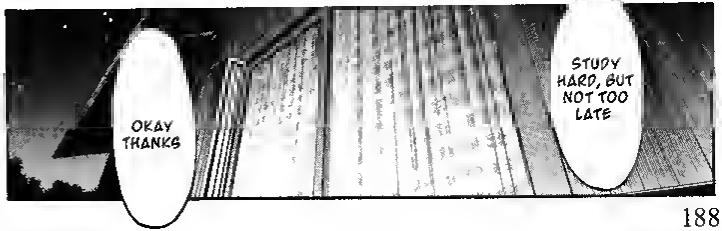

LEAVE IT RIGHT THERE.
REALLY? THANKS.

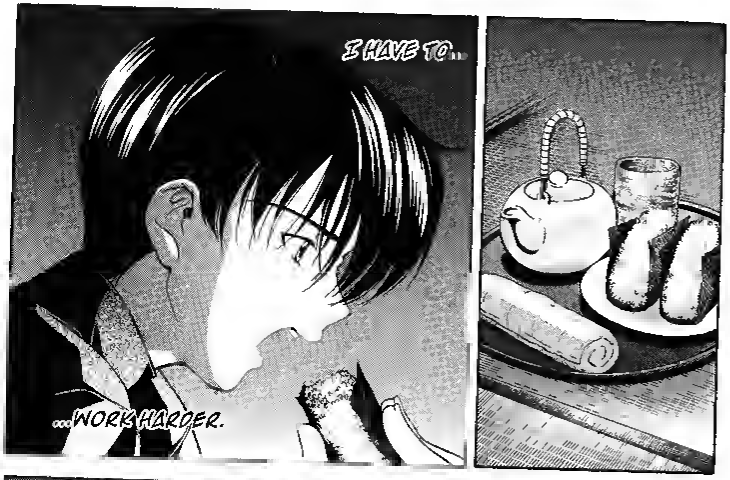

カラン

UH, UM...
WELL THEN.. GOOD NIGHT...
HUH?!

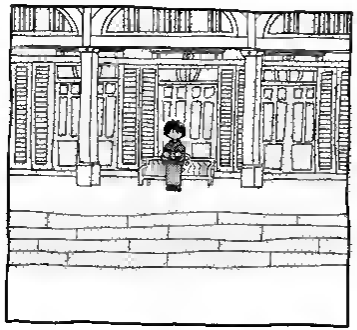
DO YOU REALLY LIKE IT?!
OF COURSE IT'S LOVELY. IT SUITS YOU.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, KAORU-SAMA.
YOU MADE AOI SO HAPPY! ♡

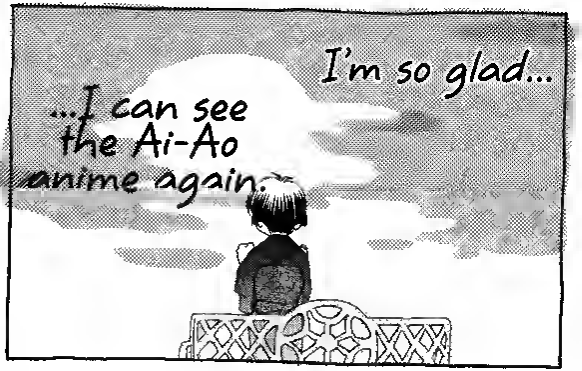

STUDY HARD, BUT NOT TOO LATE
OKAY THANKS


I HAVE TO...
...WORK HARDER.

I HAVE THE POWER WITHIN ME...
I WILL MAKE AOI-CHAN HAPPY.



Ai-Ao Theatre, part 25: Enishi



End of Chapter 93: Zenshin—Gradual Progress

AH!
THEY WERE HAVING A BIG SALE ON EGGS AT THE SUPERMARKET, SO I BOUGHT TWO CARTONS.
LATELY? WELL, LET'S SEE...

WHAT?! YOU MEAN... NOW?
OKAY... BUT PLEASE WAIT A MOMENT.
"OH, REALLY?"
"TRY THEM ON."
AND... I GOT SOME NEW CAT EARS FROM TAEKO-SAN.

"REALLY CUTE!"
"YOU LOOK FINE."
"TOTALLY HOT!!"
H-HOW DO I LOOK?!

A SHORT COMIC IN COMMEMORATION OF THE RELEASE OF THE COMPANION VIDEO GAME!
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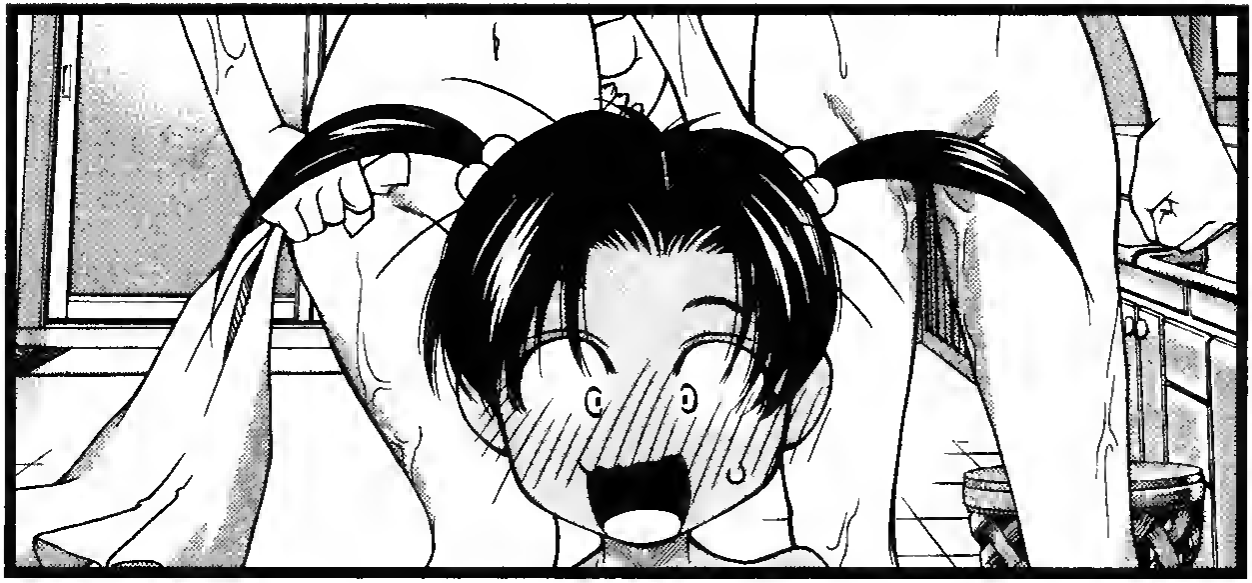
SP版
YES. IS THERE SOMETHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO ASK AOI?

"HAS ANYTHING NEW HAPPENED LATELY?"
"WOULD YOU MASSAGE MY SHOULDERS?"
"WHAT ARE TODAY'S STOCK PRICES?"

End of Ai Yori Aoshi SP Version



Chika has some girlfriends over -- and one thing leads to another, which leads to a bath. But before they get dressed, their messing around causes some problems, and Kaoru sees them all naked.

Meanwhile, Aoi is lonely because Kaoru is working so hard at his studies -- but then she receives a surprise visitor who reveals a lot about Miyabi and Aoi's relationship.

NEXT TIME IN

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AI YORI AOSHI

Chika has some girlfriends over -- and one thing leads to another, which leads to a bath. But before they get dressed, their messing around causes some problems, and Kaoru sees them all naked.

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